

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH WORK IN LUXEMBOURG



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1 Context of youth work

The historic origins of youth work in Luxembourg go back to the beginning of the 20th century when youth movements evolved. At this time, youth movements were strongly related to the church and politics and youth work was mainly provided by people doing voluntary work for young people. According to Schroeder (2014: 67), “the general trend in youth work in Luxembourg over the last few decades is that of movement from a political role to a more educational and social work role, due to professionalisation and growing public support for youth organisations”.

The foundation of the National Youth Council (Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse Luxembourgeoise) and the National Youth Service (Service National de la Jeunesse) were important milestones of the professionalisation of youth work in Luxembourg.

The National Youth Council is an umbrella organisation and interest group of young people and youth organisations in Luxembourg, which was founded in 1960 by ministerial decree. The organisations associated with the National Youth Council include political youth movements, labour union youth movements, Scouts and Guides, as well as sociocultural and leisure associations for young people.

The National Youth Service was founded in 1964. For the first time, public authorities created a separate body for youth work. According to its mission, the National Youth Service had to collaborate closely with youth movements. It was to build up an impressive programme of activities and also invest a lot of energy into the training of youth leaders and volunteer youth workers. In 1984, the National Youth Service was given the legal status of a public organisation and objectives and organisational issues were regulated by law for the first time. The law defines its mission as developing open youth work in Luxembourg, supporting the creation of meeting places for young people and youth centres (Chamber of Deputies 1984).

As Schroeder (2014: 64) states, “youth organisations were not enthusiastic about the idea of a government youth work office. In the 1990s even, the leaders of the National Youth Council still demanded the dissolution of the National Youth Service and the reallocation of the support directly to youth organisations.”

As a consequence of professionalisation, the field of youth work has separated into two fields: “Whereas youth work at the beginning was mainly provided by youth organisations and its volunteering members we now have two almost separate youth work fields in

Luxembourg: the youth organisations and the professional youth centres, or what is commonly known as open youth work” (Schroeder 2014: 68).

During the 1990s, the professionalisation of youth work progressed further. The creation of a Ministry for Youth and the introduction of the profession of educators who were working in the field of child and youth care contributed to this development. The salaries of professions in this field were defined in a collective agreement between trade unions and social work employers. Furthermore, this agreement allowed for numerous opportunities for mobility within the field of social work.

After the 1999 elections, youth policy and youth work were integrated into the Ministry for the Family. This ministry is a “generational” ministry, being responsible for policies pertaining to children, young people, elderly people and disabled people. Youth work policy was thus closer than ever to social work policy, yet still seen as in between education, social security and employment policies (Schroeder 2014: 66).

After the 2013 elections, the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth became responsible for youth policy, and the educational and employment agenda of youth work gained in importance. With the introduction of a framework of non-formal education for open youth work in 2017 (Chamber of Deputies 2017a), quality assurance and a systematic monitoring was established.

2 Strategic and legislative framework of youth work

Youth work in Luxembourg includes on the one hand professional youth work provided by youth workers in open youth work centres at the local level, and on the other hand voluntary youth work provided mainly by youth organisations. Youth work is delivered by paid as well as by unpaid and volunteer youth workers. Generally, youth work is based on non-formal and informal learning processes focused on young people and on voluntary participation.

Schroeder (2013: 28) summarises the current situation of youth work in Luxembourg by a description of the organisation and overarching objectives of youth work in Luxembourg. According to Schroeder, the objectives of youth work include:

- 1) promotion of social integration of young people;
- 2) organisation of leisure activities; and
- 3) promotion of the political participation in a democratic society.

The different actors in the field of youth work focus on specific objectives. Youth organisations, for instance, are mainly active in the field of leisure time opportunities for young people at the local level (e.g. youth clubs). The promotion of social integration and political participation are less important for these organisations. According to Schroeder (2013), this is because members of these organisations possess sufficient levels of economic and social resources and thus there is no need to foster social integration and political participation.

The political side of youth work is provided mainly by the National Youth Council and the youth parliament which was introduced by the 2008 youth law (Chamber of Deputies 2008). The youth council's role is to assist, support and guide the youth parliament. The open youth work centres focus on the promotion of social integration of young people. Their work is close to educational and social work. It helps young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to find their way into society.

Organisations or services which offer youth work are defined by the revised 2016 Youth Law (Chamber of Deputies 2016). It distinguishes between three kinds of structures:

- 1) Youth organisation (*Organisation de jeunes*): self-organised organisations, from young people for young people (e.g. youth club);

- 2) Organisation in favour of young people (*Organisation en faveur de la jeunesse*): organisations where youth work is only a subordinated objective besides their main objective; and
- 3) Service for young people (*Service pour jeunes*): particularly open youth work offered by local youth centres.

Objectives of youth work are oriented towards the general objectives of youth policy defined in the Youth Law. The 2008 Youth Law (Chamber of Deputies 2008) and the revised 2016 Youth Law (Chamber of Deputies 2016) set the frame for youth policy making in Luxembourg. They state the main objectives and guiding principles of youth policy in Luxembourg which are defined as follows (Article 1):

- 1) provide a favourable environment, promote the development and integration of young people in society;
- 2) promote personal fulfilment and social and professional development of young people;
- 3) contribute to the education of young people as responsible and active citizens, respectful of democracy, values and fundamental rights of society;
- 4) work towards equality of opportunity and combat the mechanisms of exclusion and failure;
- 5) work towards gender equality;
- 6) promote solidarity and mutual understanding of young people in a multicultural society;
- 7) promote active citizenship;
- 8) promote the access of young people to autonomy;
- 9) promote a sense of initiative, creativity and spirit of initiative of young people;
- 10) promote non-formal education and support active organisations in this field;
- 11) work for inclusion and social cohesion;
- 12) promote the academic success of children and youth and to prevent school dropout;
and
- 13) contribute to the learning of the languages of the country thereby promoting social and academic integration.

The objectives of youth work provided by services for young people (*Service pour jeunes*) are defined by the 1999 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 1999). This regulation also introduced a system of governmental enablement to be granted to organisations implementing services for young people. This includes financial support granted to

institutions on signing a convention with the state which determines the services to be provided by the institution and the rules of payment, accounts and control. It also defines the objectives of open youth work which are:

- 1) to contribute to the development of young people in order to enable them to become aware of their abilities and to develop them, to experiment, to express themselves and to develop a critical, active and responsible citizenship;
- 2) to participate in the prevention, social and professional integration and integration on the local and regional level;
- 3) to encourage users to organise themselves in groups, by promoting attitudes of self-confidence and solidarity and by fostering the integration of individual problems in a collective dynamic;
- 4) to participate in the development of a socio-collective democratisation policy by providing tools for participation by giving particular attention to social groups with less favourable economic, social and cultural conditions; and
- 5) to ensure, through diversified actions, the active participation of young people in the design, implementation, management and evaluation of actions. They promote the involvement of young people and try to implement projects on socio-cultural development at local or regional level.

An important law (ASFT law) which regulates the quality aspects of youth service structures was introduced in 1998 (Chamber of Deputies 1998). Together with the 1999 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 1999) it sets a frame for the relationships between the state as an enabling agency and non-public actors providing social, family and therapeutic work. Every institution offering hosting, counselling, help, care, assistance, social training, activities or vocational guidance is eligible for state support. Financial support by the state will be granted to these institutions on signing a convention with the state which determines the services to be provided by the institution and the rules of payment, accounts and control.

The 2012 Youth Pact (Ministry of Family and Integration 2012) outlines five action fields and defines different objectives to support young people of Luxembourg:

Action field 1: Manage the transition from school to the labour market

Objectives:

- better information and guidance; and
- better support.

Action field 2: Achieve a successful start in adult life

Objectives:

- preventing isolation of disadvantaged families;
- creating housing structures for youth in distress;
- facilitating housing access; and
- developing the quality of socio-educational care.

Action field 3: Foster the well-being of young people

Objectives:

- promoting the use of new media regarding information and communication preventing the problematic use of psychoactive substances;
- promoting emotional and sexual health;
- implementing the educational project: “school climate”;
- implementing the national strategy on the mental health of children and youth;
- helping and protecting youth in distress;
- promoting a balanced diet and physical activity;
- reducing morbidity and mortality of young people by implementation of violence and accident prevention measures; and
- promoting the integration of children and young people with specific needs.

Action field 4: Establish young people as stakeholders

Objectives:

- eliminating gender boundaries;
- promoting and developing youth participation;
- promoting and extending participation opportunities;
- promoting access to culture; and
- implementing the national action plan regarding integration and the fight against discrimination.

Action field 5: Scientific monitoring of youth policy

Objectives:

- getting a better comprehension and knowledge of youth in Luxembourg; and
- preparing the editing of the second national youth report.

Although the 2012 Youth Pact addresses all young people living in Luxembourg, it also focuses on disadvantaged young people (e.g. low-skilled and unemployed young people, young people at risk of poverty, young people facing difficulties in obtaining affordable housing or young people with health risks/problems).

The Youth Pact 2017-2020 (Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, 2017) is a follow-up of the 2012 Youth Pact and it defines political objectives with regard to three domains for the period between 2017 and 2020: (1) school-to-work transitions, (2) housing transitions and (3) participation.

The Youth Pact 2017-2020 defines the different objectives in these three domains as follows:

- 1) Facilitate the transition into the working world
 - Improve knowledge on risk groups
 - Make use of the results of research on young people at risk (HBSC, NEET)
 - Facilitate and strengthen the communication and reflection between the actors in formal and non-formal education on groups at risk
 - Strengthen the capacity of youth with limited resources in formal and non-formal education
 - Facilitate the exchange between actors in the field of formal and non-formal education in order to set up a platform of youth work
 - Develop and conceptualise offers of youth work in schools
 - Develop the “Guarantee for Youth” scheme in conjunction with the labour and employment sector
 - Increase the visibility and quality of measures in the domain of outreach activities, activation, training and support of young people in NEET status and school dropouts
 - Analyse and optimise politics and practices of education and career guidance in accordance to labour market demands
 - Promote trainings and measures which prepare young people for the future in the context of the digitalisation of the working life
 - Develop the concertation between the political stakeholders in order to formalise a sustainable strategy of the Youth Guarantee.
- 2) Youth and housing
 - Develop and formalise a common intersectoral policy on housing for young people

- Strengthen the development of autonomy of young people in the institution of the child welfare (Aide à l'Enfance) in the framework of a development of a reference framework on child welfare
 - Adoption of an intersectorial memorandum of understanding which formalises the political engagement for the monitoring of housing infrastructures requirements for young people who face a difficult transition
 - Increasing youth housing for youth at risk
 - Increase the number of housing offers for young people in an open setting (services de logement encadré en milieu ouvert)
 - Increase the number of housing offers for young people who face a difficult transition
 - Facilitating the creation of alternative forms of housing for young people
 - Facilitate the development of alternative housing offers for young people by analysing the current regulation and by setting up a regulatory system that is better adapted to the needs of young people.
- 3) Strengthen the participation of all young people
- Positioning youth participation in formal and non-formal education
 - Promote the development of a thematic expertise of the actors in the field of non-formal education in the domain of democracy, values, and participation
 - Develop a coherent approach for the participation and active citizenship of pupils in schools
 - Develop further the method of structured dialogue, both for youth organisations and young people who are not members
 - Develop inclusive participation for particular target groups
 - Encourage the development of models for inclusive participation by using the existing tools (funding schemes, trainings, contracts, publications, pilot projects)
 - Promote the development of concepts and methods of youth work in order to foster the inclusion of young people with disabilities
 - Foster the cultural participation of young people by making use of their inclusive potential
 - Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders through participation in networking
 - Create a platform to set up a network for all actors involved in promoting the participation and citizenship of young people.

Besides these specific objectives, a general objective of the Youth Pact is to strengthen youth work and the dialogue between the different stakeholders in the youth field (ministries, administrations).

The 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a) on the introduction of a national framework on non-formal education of children and young people defines the objectives of youth work in Luxembourg.

3 Recognition

Political recognition of professional youth work is strengthened by the legislation framework and the different laws adopted over the past decades. Non-formal education was strengthened especially by the revised 2016 Youth Law (Chamber of Deputies 2016) and the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a) on the introduction of a national framework on non-formal education of children and young people. These legislations introduced a monitoring system for institutions of non-formal education (e.g. local youth centres) and define the objectives of non-formal education.

The formal recognition of non-formal education and learning in youth work is specified in the 2009 Grand-Ducal regulation on Youth (Chamber of Deputies 2009). The National Youth Service is in charge of the recognition procedure. Furthermore, the 2010 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2010) defines the procedure of the Validation of non-formal and informal learning (Validation des acquis de l'expérience – VAE). Furthermore, the Certificat is an online tool that allows non-profit organisations to award their participants a certificate of competences. The tool is available to any organisation, club or institution that provides training courses, projects or other activities on a regular basis. It is based on predefined skills and thereby fosters not only the recognition of skills, but also the development of a consistent definition of the various kinds of skills.

There is no legal framework for the profession of youth work per se. The professional background of youth workers ranges from educators with a secondary education diploma (with specialisation in education or health; university graduates with a bachelor or master degree, for example in the field of educational/social science or psychology). The bachelor in educational and social sciences (Bachelor en sciences sociales et éducatives) offered by the University of Luxembourg is an important bachelor programme for students who aim at working with young people.

Although there exists no legal framework for the profession of youth work, professionals working with young people have to fulfil basic requirements with regard to educational degrees/diplomas. The requirements are defined by the 1999 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 1999). Article 17 of this law calls for certain educational qualifications. Applicants must hold a Luxembourgish or equivalent foreign degree as a lawyer, psychologist, pedagogue, sociologist, curative educator, occupational therapist, social worker, social hygiene assistant or teacher (among others). Volunteers also have to fulfil

specific qualification requirements (certificate for assistant facilitators (brevet aide animateur) or equivalent).

Luxembourg is involved in the initiative Erasmus+ Youthpass.

4 Funding youth work

It is difficult to give a comprehensive overview of funding of youth work because the field is very differentiated and youth work is funded by different schemes in terms of institutions and degree of professionalisation (professional and voluntary youth work).

The most reliable data on funding are available for the field of professional youth work under the legal framework of the 1999 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 1999). All youth services for young people (Service pour jeunes) which have an agreement (in accordance to this regulation) are funded by public budget. The total budget is €13 111 234 (2018). Youth centres are funded by the state and the municipality. Both always fund half of the total personnel costs. Facilities are provided by the municipality and the interior equipment by the state. The total budget of the National Youth Service is €19 982 436 (2018). Other youth initiatives (e.g. political youth parties) are funded by the budget line “Subsides pour activités dans l’intérêt des jeunes” whose total amount is €106 541 (2018).

Luxembourg is involved in the European initiative Erasmus+. Under the key action 1 (Mobility of individuals) falls the support of mobility of learners and staff, which includes not only students and young volunteers but also youth workers. The key action 2 (Co-operation for innovation and the exchange of good practices) encompasses further projects which aim at supporting the exchange at the institutional level (e.g. strategic partnerships, capacity-building projects) (European Commission 2016). Erasmus+ fundings are the most important international funding sources for youth work activities in Luxembourg (see: www.anefore.lu/documents/documents-de-references/).

5 Structures, actors and levels in youth work provision

5.1 State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work

The Ministry of Education, Children and Youth is in charge of youth policy at the national level. Youth policy is regulated by the department of youth within this ministry. The department also plans youth work at the national level.

The National Youth Service, a public administration under the authority of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth contributes to the implementation of youth policy and is a point of contact, information, counselling and support for young people and actors in the field of youth work. The main tasks of the National Youth Service, as defined by the revised Youth Law of 2016 (Chamber of Deputies 2016), are to:

- organise an equipment lending service, provide locations, fund educational projects and manage the leave for youth workers (congé jeunesse);
- organise and co-ordinate training for assistant facilitators (aide-animateurs), facilitators (animateurs) and managers of youth organisations;
- manage, control and co-ordinate the reception of au pair in Luxembourg and promote European and international exchange between young people and between actors working with children and youth (<http://www.accueil-aupair.lu/>);
- manage and run specialised educational centres whose mission is to develop, implement and disseminate concepts and non-formal education programmes;
- co-ordinate voluntary service programmes and develop projects promoting the participation of children and youth in the economic, social and cultural life (e.g. Youth in Action programme and other national voluntary services: <http://volontaires.lu/>);
- support the training of professionals working with children or youth and prepare educational materials for work with children and youth;
- monitor educational quality in education and care services for children with parental assistants and in youth services;
- contribute to the implementation of national, European and international programmes and agreements in support of children and youth (e.g. Erasmus+);
- contribute to the development of communal or intercommunal youth plans.

According to the 2016 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2016), the National Youth Service is subdivided into five organisational units: (1) Administration, (2) Training and support of educational projects, (3) Educational centres, (4) Support for school-to-work

transitions, and (5) Quality development. The number of people employed by the National Youth Service is 145 (2017) (www.snj.public.lu/fr/le-snj/snj-en-bref).

5.2 National or local youth councils

The National Youth Council is an umbrella organisation and interest group of young people and youth organisations in Luxembourg that supports and delivers youth work. The organisation is composed of an executive committee with nine member organisations. It determines which projects are implemented and is in charge of the further development of the Council. The organisations associated with the National Youth Council include political youth movements, labour union youth movements, Scouts and Guides, as well as socio-cultural and leisure associations for young people. The Youth Council's main objective is to increase active participation of young people in society. The Council and its collaborators are in charge of the realisation of various projects. These include, *inter alia*, the support of the National Assembly of Young People, the organisation of events such as the youth conventions where young people have the opportunity to sit in parliament and meet deputies or the city rally, where young people can explore both the capital city and different topics related to civic education. Furthermore, the Council is an important partner organisation in the framework of the European structured dialogue. (The Activity Report presented by the Council provides a complete overview of projects and activities: CGJL 2016).

5.3 Youth and youth work NGOs

The Entente des Gestionnaires des Maisons de Jeunes (EGMJ), the national umbrella organisation of the 37 supporting organisations (gestionnaires) of 69 local youth centres, supports youth work. The main tasks of the EGMJ include the promotion of exchanges, co-ordination and co-operation between members, support for the work of youth centres and services, awareness raising of open youth work and the representation of members' interests abroad in the relevant political bodies.

The supporting organisations of youth centres are important bodies as they support youth work concerning administrative issues, hiring youth worker staff, controlling the work, etc. Supporting organisations are composed of representatives of the municipality and the organisation.

There are many youth and youth work NGOs which support or deliver youth work. The most important are: the Scouts movement, youth clubs, youth parties and youth departments of labour unions.

5.4 Other relevant actors

Municipalities are important supporters of youth work at the local level, not only because they provide funding for open youth work in the local youth centres but they are also involved in the conceptual work of youth centres.

6 Forms and examples of youth work in your country

The state encourages and supports open, youth centre-based youth work in the framework of the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation on the introduction of a national framework on non-formal education of children and young people (Chamber of Deputies 2017a). The regulation defines guidelines and quality standards of non-formal education and encourages youth work which is conceptualised according to these guidelines.

Youth centres offer various forms of youth work to all young people. Of particular interest, however, are young people with fewer opportunities because this group is traditionally underrepresented in other organisations which offer youth work on a voluntary basis. Outreach Youth Work is a specific pilot project targeting young people with limited opportunities, namely inactive young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and have low motivation and resources to manage their professional integration. In the Outreach Youth Work project, educators of local youth centres are a major resource to young people. They offer support by facilitating access to information, providing guidance and proposing to develop a “plan of change”, which will motivate them to go back to school or to enter the job market. The project period is two years (2016-17) and it is funded by the European Social Fund.

The following three projects or initiatives represent successful examples of youth work practices in Luxembourg:

- 1) *Zukunftsdiplom* (future diploma) is a project of the local youth centre in the municipality of Schiffflange situated in the Southern Region of Luxembourg. It aims at certificating young peoples' skills acquisitions in projects they were involved in. The acquired skills are documented in the *Zukunftsdiplom*-certificate. The project is characterised by its low threshold and is designed for young people between 12 and 30 years of age (www.schefflenger-jugendhaus.lu/articles/zukunftsdiplom).
- 2)
- 3) *Go Urban* is the international Guide & Scout Camp in Luxembourg in 2017. Organised by the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts of Luxembourg (Lëtzebuerger Guiden a Scouten (LGS)) it took place in July 2017 at Kirchberg in the city centre of Luxembourg. More than 4 000 young people of different nationalities participated at the camp. The idea was the creation of a “Guide/Scout-City” in which the programme focused on the principals of the “education for more sustainability” concept. The programme of the camp was adapted to the needs of young people. The camp gave

room to Guides and Scouts from all over the world to interchange and have fun in a peaceful environment (<https://gourban.lgs.lu/en/>).

4)

- 5) The Youth Centres *Jugendtreff Hesper* and *Nordstad Jugend* offer open youth work at the local level. They have extended their activities by offering the so-called “Betreit Wunnen fir jonk Leit” (assisted living for young people) or “Jugendwunnen” (housing for youth). These include accommodations for young people between 18 and 30 years of age who face difficulties in finding accommodation. They do not only offer rooms and facilities but also educational and psychological support if needed. The offer is aimed at helping disadvantaged youth to secure appropriate accommodation and minimise risks related to school problems, unemployment, relationship or mental problems, etc. It has been specifically designed with the tight Luxembourgish housing market in mind (www.jugendtreffhesper.lu/v4.0/index.php/de/organisation-services-de-lu/assisted-living-de-lu; <http://homepage.nordstadjugend.lu/jugendwunnen.html>).

Currently there are no projects or examples of digital/online youth work developing.

7 Quality standards

Are there any competence frameworks or quality standards guiding youth workers and youth work activities in your country? Is there any structure involved in overseeing their implementation? If not, what guides the quality aspects of youth work? What evaluation references are used to assess the quality of youth work?

The 1998 ASFT law (Chamber of Deputies 1998) regulates the structural quality of youth work in open youth centres (e.g. number of employees, size of groups, infrastructure and security standards).

The revised 2016 Youth Law (Chamber of Deputies 2016) introduced a competence framework or quality standards for open youth work of youth centres which were specified by the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a). The regulation defines specific measures in order to increase the process quality.

The quality of results, for example indicators of personal development, acquisition of competences or educational success, are explicitly not defined by the regulation. It rather aims at improving the quality of the learning environment and to stimulate learning.

An important element of the framework is that every youth centre has to define a concept (Concept d'Action Général, CAG). After the concept is reviewed positively by the National Youth Service and adopted by the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth it is valid for a period of three years. The concept includes four parts:

- 1) a pedagogical part describing objectives of youth work and basic pedagogical principles at the local and regional level;
- 2) measures of self-evaluation;
- 3) a definition of action fields in which projects for pedagogical quality assurance are implemented;
- 4) a plan for further training of the educational staff.

With the adoption of the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a), youth centres have to fill out a logbook which contains detailed information on their visitors and the activities provided. The logbook includes information on five fields:

- 1) description of members;
- 2) number of visitors per day;
- 3) number of participants at activities;
- 4) information, guidance, help;
- 5) information on further training of educational staff.

The quality standards of the youth centres are supervised by regional agents of the National Youth Service (Achten and Bodeving 2017). Besides a review of the documents (concept, the logbook and activity reports) the agents conduct interviews with the educational staff (once a year). The interviews address the concept, the specific objectives and the priorities of the youth centre. The results form the evidence base for deducing strengths and challenges.

Besides this internal evaluation there is an external evaluation to assess the entire programme.

8 Knowledge and data on youth work

The research group Youth Research: Context and Structures of Growing-up at the University of Luxembourg is the main youth research group in Luxembourg. From an interdisciplinary perspective, this group investigates the situation of young people utilising a multi-methodological approach. A substantial share of the research projects are jointly funded by the state and the University of Luxembourg. A co-operation agreement between the ministry in charge of youth policy (the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, since 2013) and the University of Luxembourg, signed in 2007, serves as a contractual basis for the institutionalised and recurring co-operation between youth policy and youth research.

The research group is involved in the monitoring process of youth work in youth centres and was also in the drafting of the framework for non-formal learning which was regulated by the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a).

Relevant publications on youth work in Luxembourg:

- Achten M. and Bodeving C. (2017), "Die Qualitätsentwicklung im non-formalen Bildungsbereich in Luxemburg", in Klinkhammer N., Schäfer B. and Harring D. (eds) (2017), *DJI-Fachforum Bildung und Erziehung: Band 13. Qualitätsmonitoring in der frühkindlichen Bildung und Betreuung: Ansätze und Erfahrungen aus ausgewählten Ländern*, Verlag Deutsches Jugendinstitut, München: Verlag Deutsches Jugendinstitut, (pp. 111-33).
- Biewers S. (2011), "Jugendarbeit als Bildungsort", *Forum für Politik, Gesellschaft und Kultur* (312), 44-47.
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- Biewers S., Bodeving C. and Mann C. (2013), "Qualitätsentwicklung in der Offenen Jugendarbeit", in Service National de la Jeunesse (SNJ), Luxembourg (ed.), *Handbuch Offene Jugendarbeit in Luxemburg*, (pp. 83-100).
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9 European and international dimension of youth work in the country

Youth work policy in Luxembourg has a strong international and European dimension. Most of the legislation and policy programmes on youth and youth work in Luxembourg refer to international trends, policy developments and the corresponding legal framework. Luxembourg implements several policy recommendations of the European institutions (e.g. European Commission White Paper – A new impetus for European youth (European Commission 2001); EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 (European Commission 2009), European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2016-2018 (Council of the European Union and Representatives of the Governments of the Member States 2009); Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 (Committee of Ministers 2017)).

Furthermore, Luxembourg is represented in the Youth Working Party which prepares items for discussion by EU ministers for youth. Its work includes youth issues such as: participation and active citizenship, inclusion through “structured dialogue”, solidarity and social inclusion of young people, recognition of the value of informal and non-formal learning, youth work, opportunities for young people in education and training and in the labour market. The working party also deals with youth issues related to other sectors: education, employment, health and well-being and sport. This work is co-ordinated with the other relevant working parties (www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/youth-working-party/#).

10 Current debates and open questions/policies on youth work

The main challenge of current and future youth work in Luxembourg is to strengthen the cross-sectional nature of youth work and its integration into other policy and practical fields.

The future priorities and challenges of youth work include the following fields of actions:

- bringing the youth centres and youth organisations on the local level closer together;
- strengthening the co-operation between youth work and work with children (child and youth welfare services);
- integrating youth work practices in schools, as it is foreseen by the 2017 law on secondary education (Chamber of Deputies 2017b);
- increasing the offer of accommodation for young people also in co-operation with youth work;
- implementing the quality assurance in youth centres as it is foreseen by the 2017 Grand-Ducal regulation (Chamber of Deputies 2017a);
- strengthening outreach activities of youth work with a special emphasis on disadvantaged young people (unemployed and inactive young people);
- promoting the collaboration with other relevant institutions/fields.

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