

Models and instruments of Cross-sectorial Youth Policy

A comparative survey of 9 countries



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Youth
in Action

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This survey was realized within the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010–2018)

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Preface

At the end of 2011, the Federal German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) launched a cross-border learning process in accordance with an evidence-based governance to find out the strategies of youth policy in the EU member states and in Europe. In this context, the BMFSFJ has initiated a so-called multilateral co-operation project that focuses on the following topics and issues:

- The role of regions and municipalities in youth policy
- Acknowledgment and greater appreciation of the target group ‚youth‘ (Positive Youth Policy)
- Youth policy as departmental or cross-sectorial policy

The partners in this peer learning project are:

Belgium (Flanders), Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Sweden, The Netherlands and Germany.

According to the topics, three different European peer learning seminars were held; the first in Berlin (DE) in June 2012, the second in Rotterdam (NL) in October 2012 and the third in Prague (CZ) in April 2013. The Prague seminar was dedicated to the topic of cross-sectorial youth policy. During all sessions representatives from the participating countries presented different models and approaches of how a cross-sectorial youth policy has been implemented in their country. As there has also been contact with other countries it was possible to add examples from Austria and Finland.

This brochure tries to presents models and approaches of cross-sectorial youth policy across Europe in a comparable and brief way.

YOUTH CHECK

Germany



- Level** » National level
The Youth Check is currently being prepared for implementation.
-
- Guiding principle /Aims** » The life situation and participation of present and coming youth generations is a leading principle and has to be considered in all political, legislative and administrative actions of the Federal Ministries.
- To raise awareness for youth and their life situations in the legislation bodies (e. g. ministries, parliament)
 - To enhance a sense of an own responsibility for present and coming youth generations
 - To provide an incentive for the German Bundesländer and the municipalities to do the same
-
- Political context** » The Youth Check focuses on three current political fields of action:
- 1 Eigenständige Jugendpolitik (New Youth Policy)
Youth Check as instrument of implementation of the New Youth Policy
 - 2 Strategy of demography of the Federal government
Addition of the life phase „Youth“ to the strategy of demography
 - 3 Strategy of sustainability of the Federal government

Tools

» Guidelines

10 – 15 concrete questions guiding through criteria

Example: Does the action increase or alter the participation of young people to social benefits?

3 central test criteria:

1. Access to resources and possibilities for participation
2. Effects of the action to the promotion of well-being of young people
3. Focus on the physical and mental integrity of young people, protection against exploitation

Manual

A manual will be produced to give examples and background information explaining the criteria

Monitoring

Central data basis about living conditions of young people in Germany, summary of existing data on a regular basis.

Target group

- » The Youth Check is valid for young people between 0 and 27 years of age.
-

Contact and links

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YOUTH CHECK

Austria



Level

- » National level
The Youth Check has been adopted from 2013 on.

Guiding principle/Aims

- » The Youth Check obliges all ministries to check each legislative initiative on its effects on children and young people. This sharpens the awareness about the specific concerns and needs of young people. The Youth Check shall broaden the normal “adult”-perspective and it shall in the long run permit an even more child friendly society in Austria.

Political context

- » The Youth Check is part of the Austrian Youth Strategy which is an ongoing process to strengthen and to enhance youth policy in Austria.

It follows the standards of the Austrian Constitution and of the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

Tools

- » The Youth Check is meant to be an outcome oriented impact assessment on the effects of policy measures („wirkungsorientierte Folgenabschätzung“).

This assessment consists of 5 steps:

- Problem analysis,
- defining aims,
- defining measures,
- impact assessment and
- internal evaluation.

The outcome oriented impact assessment gives outcome information for laws, ordinances, other legal frameworks and major projects. This includes a problem analysis, objectives and measures including indicators as well as an assessment of impacts.

There is an Online-tool which supports the implementation of the impact assessment. The tool helps to produce a so-called “WFA-result document” which has to be added to the legislative initiative.

More information to the WFA-tool (in English):

http://www.wfa.gv.at/English/_start.htm

Target group

- » The Youth Check covers young people from 0–30 years of age.

Contact and links

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CROSS-SECTORIAL YOUTH POLICY in the Czech Republic



Level

- » National level
Currently: implementation of the last two-year action plan for 2012–2013 in the context of the National Youth Strategy (2007–2013), evaluation of “Government Policy on Children and Young People for 2007–2013” and work on a new “Youth Strategy 2020” for 2014–2020

Guiding principle/Aims

- » A youth perspective is mainstreamed in relevant policy areas on the basis of promoting and providing equal approach to organised and non-organised youth as well as stakeholders involved in youth work. Central priorities that have been emphasised by the Government are to counteract the social exclusion of young people and promote their participation, voluntary activities and an equal access to non-formal education.

Political context

- » Government Policy on Children and Young People for 2007–2013
Main co-ordinator: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- implementation of tasks according to respective two-year Action Plans
- no specific budget, each ministry covers youth related actions from its own budget
- strong link to the EU Youth Strategy
- strong focus on cross-sectorial approach

Tools

- » ■ An inner (ministerial) working group for coordinating the implementation of the current Policy and preparing a new generation of national youth policy after the 2013 year
- Thematic cross-sectorial working groups on 8 fields covering the EU Youth Strategy plus two more thematic working groups on “Information for and about Young People” and “Research on young People”
- A newly established Youth Chamber as a cross-sectorial advisory body for drafting, implementing and evaluating current and future youth policies of the Czech Republic
- Support structures for an intensive European cooperation in the field of youth policies within the Visegrad Group countries (CZ, PL, HU, SK) including an active participation in joint European projects

The Youth Chamber is a cross-sectorial advisory body which discusses and consults all the issues related to youth policy. Apart from the representatives of partner ministries and the organisations directly controlled by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (National Institute for Children and Youth, Czech Council of Children and Youth and the Association of Leisure Time Centres) representatives of regions, municipalities at local level, employers and religions are as well members of the Youth Chamber.

Target group

- » Children and young people between 13 and 25 years of age (in some areas also below 13)

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CROSS-SECTORIAL YOUTH POLICY in Sweden



Level » National level

Guiding principle/Aims » The current two objectives of the Government's youth policy are:

- to ensure that all young people have genuine access to welfare, and
- to ensure that all young people have genuine access to influence.

One important part of the Swedish Youth Policy is to see young people as a resource. This means that young people with their knowledge and experience are important for growth and for social development both at present and for the future.

Political context » In Sweden there is a governmental bill for Youth Policy which defines goals and the structure for follow-up together with an action-plan. The latest bill was presented in 2005.

Since January 2011, the Ministry of Education and Research has been responsible for coordinating the Government's youth policy.

Tools

- » The task of coordinating Government youth policy presupposes active cross-sectorial efforts within the Government Offices and vis à vis other National Agencies. The National Board for Youth Affairs is the National Agency that is assigned by the Government to implement youth policy on national level and support the development on local level.

The follow up of youth policy focuses on how the two main objectives are achieved within each of the following prioritised areas of activity:

- Education and learning
- Work and income maintenance
- Health and vulnerability
- Influence and representation
- Culture and leisure

Sixteen national agencies with relevant statistics about young people are involved in the yearly follow-up on youth policy. The Government has tasked the National Board for Youth Affairs to collect the statistics and compile it in order to describe the living conditions of young people and report it to the government on a yearly basis. The National Board for Youth Affairs also conducts an annual thematic analyze of young people's circumstances within one or several selected main areas. The follow-up system also includes regular studies of young people's attitudes and values.

Target group

- » Young people between 13 and 25 years of age

Contact and links

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CROSS-SECTORIAL YOUTH POLICY in Lithuania



Level » National level

Guiding principle/Aims » Youth policy is developed in two directions. First, ensuring the interests of youth in individual fields of public policy – education and science, culture, sports, work and employment, dwelling, health care, etc. Second, youth activities aimed at enabling young people to learn from experience and experiment (voluntariness, independence, autonomy).

Political context » The State Council of Youth Affairs was established by parity principle with a view to ensure interdepartmental and intersectoral cooperation in the field of youth policy. The Council of Youth Affairs, constituted by parity principle and having a deliberative vote, is currently operating under the Department of Youth Affairs. The Law on Youth Policy Framework also establishes fields of the implementation of youth policy (civic responsibility and performance of conscription, non-formal education, social and health care, etc.), principles of the implementation of youth policy (parity, interdepartmental co-ordination, participation, etc.), which serve as the basis for developing and implementing an integrated youth policy both at a national and local level. By the Law of Youth Policy Framework municipal council for youth affairs may be set up by a decision of a municipal council according to the principle of parity from representatives of municipal institutions and agencies as well as youth organisations.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania has approved a resolution in 2010 on the National Youth Policy Development Program for 2011–2019. This Program provides five objectives, identifies challenges for their implementation and defines the evaluation criteria. Development Program is implemented by action plans of three-year duration.

Tools

- » Two projects in 2009–2013 in the context of developing an integrated youth policy in Lithuania:
 - “Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy”
 - “Developing integrated youth policy”

The aim of these projects is to foster the national sector working in the field of youth policy; non-governmental sector working with youth; develop, promote, and foster the forms of cooperation between the national and non-governmental sectors. Youth policy is integrated, if interdepartmental and intersectoral cooperation structures, unanimous database of young people and institutions working with them, combination of activity priorities of different institutions as well as recruitment of human and material resources is available. Project activities: evidence-based Youth Policy (researches on local and national level); empowering YNGOs to become partners of governmental sector (trainings and evaluations); evaluating the competences and certification of youth workers working in different sectors; development of cooperation (trainings, seminars, discussions, meetings, conferences etc.). The Ministry of Social Security and Labour as well as the Department of Youth Affairs invite all stakeholders in the field of youth to gather into joint working groups, meetings, and discussions with the view of developing an integrated youth policy in Lithuania.

Target group

- » Young people between 14 and 29 years of age

Contact and links

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CROSS-SECTORIAL YOUTH POLICY in Finland



Level » National level

Guiding principle/Aims » Youth policy is designed to improve the conditions in which young Finns live and grow by:

- supporting young people's growth and independence
- promoting young people's active citizenship and empowerment
- improving young people's growth and living conditions (Youth Act 72/2006)

Political context » Jyrki Katainen's Government Programme (2011) has three core objectives:

- reduction of poverty, inequality and social exclusion
- consolidation of public finances
- strengthening of sustainable economic growth, employment and competitiveness

In youth policy these aims are carried out through the Child and Youth Policy Programme and The Youth Guarantee.

Tools

- » The Ministry of Education and Culture steers and develops youth policy by means of legislation, studies and reviews, and budgetary and lottery funding.

The Child and Youth Policy Programme

The Government adopts a development programme every four years with the aim of stepping up cross-sectoral youth policy action. Prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with other ministries, the programme contains the youth policy objectives for the coming years.

Child and Youth Policy Programme for 2012–2015:

- enhances participation and social inclusion
- promotes non-discrimination
- follows up and supervises the management of everyday life

The Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee ensures that each person under 25 years of age, and recent graduates under 30 years of age, will be offered work, a work trial, or a study, workshop or labour market rehabilitation place within three months of registering as an unemployed jobseeker. The Youth Guarantee also includes an educational guarantee, which guarantees a study place for each young person finishing basic education.

Target group

- » People under 29 years of age (Youth Act)

Contact and links

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CROSS-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH

New French Youth Policy



Level

» National level

Guiding principle/Aims

» The new French youth policy, transversal and in partnership, will focus on long-term actions and will be evaluated on a regular basis.

It will respond to 4 fundamental priorities:

1. Give priority to common law in all actions relating to youth's access to their social rights, in order to end the accumulation of derogatory or incomprehensible programmes;
2. Encourage youth empowerment through training, accommodation, health, mobility, etc.;
3. Attack social injustice and discrimination;
4. Encourage the participation of youth in public affairs and give substance to a shared and effective approach to the development of government policy.

Political context

» The new French youth policy called "Priority: Youth" was adopted by the Cross-ministerial Committee for Youth on 21 February 2013. This meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

This roadmap encompasses 47 concrete measures ordered into 13 priority objectives. Implementation will begin in 2013.

Tools

- » In order to reaffirm the Government's commitment to youth, the Prime Minister will deliver an annual report to Parliament in which he will review the programmes introduced for youth and announce plans for the coming year. This formal presentation will provide an objective analysis on the basis of a selection of indicators in the 13 priority objectives. The indicators will be provided by the National Institute for Youth and Non Formal Education (INJEP).

A policy with partners

A National Youth Conference will be established as a forum for regular discussions amongst all actors: youngsters and youth organizations, local and regional authorities, youth and non formal education NGOs, social partners, etc. In order to reinforce consultations with young people, a principal, but not exclusive, partner will be the French Youth Forum (Forum Français de la Jeunesse) created in June 2012 as an autonomous forum in which France's youth can express their ideas.

Establishment of a cross-ministerial youth delegate

A permanent cross-ministerial coordination will be established. The coordinator will monitor the coherence of actions launched by the ministries, examine progress in the inclusion of youth priorities by ministries and Government agencies, and will guarantee that a strategic approach is adopted by all ministries.

Target group

- » Young people between 15 and 30 years of age, focus on young people with less opportunities.

Contact and links

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MONITOR FOR CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES

Belgium (Flanders)



Level

- » **Municipal Level**
The monitor for child friendly cities has been introduced in a pilot phase to four Flemish cities.

In May 2013 a new pilot has started in 3 smaller villages of Flanders.

Guiding principle/Aims

- » The goal of this model is to make a cross-sectorial policy analysis of the local situation and formulate a long term strategy in favor of children and youngsters.

The main idea of this toolkit is that 'a city friendly for children is a city friendly for all'.

Political context

- » The Flemish project Child Friendly Cities adapts the 'Unicef toolkit Child Friendly Cities' to the local Flemish reality.

www.childfriendlycities.org

Tools

- » Methodological combination of self-assessment of local governments and participation of children, youngsters and advocates in civil society is used. The toolkit is based upon the children rights convention.

The strategy is implemented in four steps:

1. Broad local support:
(building a local alliance of stakeholders)
2. Analysis
(questionnaires with 118 indicators, talking groups and checks with children and youngsters)
3. Perception of children and young people
(participation of children and youngsters)
4. Strategy
(long term, cross-sectorial strategy with short term evaluation, strategical platform child friendly city)

A pilot study is being made in four Flemish cities: Turnhout, Sint-Niklaas, Hasselt and Mechelen

The toolkit for Flanders shall be finalized in December 2013 and a project website with all informations will be created so that other cities and villages can implement the toolkit if wanted.

Target group

- » Children and young people up to 18 years of age

Contact and links

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YOUTH MONITOR

The Netherlands



Level » National Level

Guiding principle/Aims » The purpose of the monitor is to inform policymakers, researchers and other interested parties about the situation of the youth in the Netherlands today.

Political context » The National Youth Monitor is a summary of information, available in print and on the Internet, about the situation of young people in the Netherlands.

The Youth Monitor is commissioned by the department for Youth of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and it is meant to develop more evidence based youth policies, especially on a local and regional level.

Tools

- » The information in the Youth Monitor can be aggregated on the level of individual municipalities and provinces and it provides a benchmark to compare the situation of young people in different municipalities and provinces on a cross-sectorial basis.

The monitor is compiled on the basis of existing reports and datasets and presents a picture of how the population aged 0–24 years in the Netherlands is doing. To this end, a number of indicators have been selected in the following domains: health and welfare, education, justice and labour. Each domain contains indicators that give a statistical insight into the situation of young people, and developments therein.

<http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/en-gb/>

Target group

- » The Youth Monitor targets the population aged 0–24 years.
-

Contact and links

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<http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/en-gb/>

