

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Country information on youth policies



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



ICELAND, 2006

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

79275 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

26,4 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4,7 %	4,5 %	4,1 %	4,4 %	4,5 %	4,2 %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
13,5 %	12,9 %

1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	2,4 %	2,3 %	2,1 %	2,3 %	2,3 %	2,2 %
Male	2,3 %	2,2 %	2,0 %	2,2 %	2,2 %	2,1 %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

7,0 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

25,5 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

24,7 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

26,5 %

1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



2,7 %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N.A. *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Division of Sports and youth. Also different Ministries handle different youth matters.

Name of minister

Mrs. Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir

Duration of mandate

48 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

3 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Mr. Erlendur Kristjánsson, erlendur.kristjansson@mrn.stjr.is

Function, role and competence of youth department

There is no separate Youth Ministry in Iceland but the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is responsible for the main part of youth affairs. The Division of Sports and Youth is a part of the Culture department. The Youth division supports various youth activities nationwide, has encouraged research work amongst youth for years and is responsible for youth policy making and international co-operation in youth matters.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

The State Youth Council, Chair Júlíus Aðalsteinsson. (ÆRR) Icelandic Youth Council (LÆF) Chair Andrés Jónsson. General Manager Höskuldur Sæmundsson. (ÆSÍ)

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Several committees of Parliament are in charge of youth issues. Example: 1) General Committee, Chair Bjarni Benediktsson. 2) Social Affairs Committee, Chair Dagný Jónsdóttir 3) Education committee, Chair Sigurður G. Kristjánsson 4) Health- and social security committee, Chair Jónína Bjartmarz

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

Ministry of Social Affairs <http://eng.felagsmalaraduneyti.is/agencies/nr/1699> The Ombudsman for Children <http://barn.is> Government Agency for Child Protection <http://bvs.is>



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

N.I.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

Municipalities in Iceland play a leading role in the practice of youth work and are the largest supporters of youth organisations. Most of them have some kind of councils responsible for youth activities and service. The Sports and youth Council of Reykjavik for example (ÍTR) encourages the various youth work. It plays a leading role in Iceland in the practice of youth work and extra curricular activities.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

The appropriate ministerial committees must be consulted when municipalities agree on new regulations built on national law. For example Committee of Social Affairs and National Youth Council.

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

National Organization of Municipality Officials responsible for Sports- and Youth affairs, FÍÆT. <http://www.fiaet.is> Samfés <http://samfes.is/english> Sports and Youth Council of Reykjavík <http://itr.is> Icelandic youth Association, <http://umfi.is>

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

Æskulýðsráð ríkisins <http://youth.is> Ungmennafélag Íslands <http://umfi.is>

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

Landssamband æskulýðsfélaga <http://www.youth.is/youth/ReadDocument.aspx?ID=49> contains all information about the Icelandic NGOs The National Olympic and Sports Association of Iceland. Icelandic youth Association. The Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association. Ungmennafélag Íslands.

2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

Rannsóknir og greining, Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis <http://rannsoknir.is> University of Iceland Icelandic Teachers Colleague Reykjavik University

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

N.I.

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N.I.

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Read the Act in Respect of Children No 76/2003 (in English)

<http://eng.domsmalaraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/nr/916> Read the Child Protection Act No 80/2002 (in English) <http://eng.felagsmalaraduneyti.is/legislation/nr/351> Laws on Childrens Ombudsman (Icelandic) <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/131a/1994083.html> The Declaration of the United Nations (Icelandic) <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/131a/1992018.2c5.html> Childrens rights Act (Icelandic) <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/131a/2003076.html> Other references see: www.barn.is

3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The Declaration was signed and approved by the Icelandic Parliament on the 19th of November 1946 and has been safeguarded by public bodies since, for example the Childrens Ombudsman, the Childrens Protection Act 80/2002, and a ministerial council on child protection.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

Detailed information in Icelandic are on the website of the Foreign affairs ministry. <http://utanrikisraduneyti.is/samningar/EvrSamningar/nr/578>

3.4 National legislation on youth

Laws on youth matters (Lög um æskulýðsmál 17. apríl 1970 nr. 24) Laws on municipalities social services (Lög um félagsþjónustu sveitarfélaga. <http://www.althingi.is/lagas/126a/1991040.html>) Laws on elementary, primary and secondary schools (Lög um leikskóla, grunnskóla, framhaldsskóla)

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

Laws on childrens protection boards in the municipalities. Municipality regulations on support regarding youth matters.

3.6 Guidelines

N.I.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

Youth Eurodesk Leonardo da Vinci Media Plus Socrates, Comenius/Erasmus EURES Euro Info Cultural Contact Point E-Contact Daphne Euroguidance European Documentation Centre

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Mrs. Lára Sigríður Baldursdóttir, lara@itr.is

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Ms. Albertína Friðbjörg Elíasdóttir Eurodesk Iceland, Gamla apotekid Hafnarstraeti 18 400 Isafjordur Iceland Tel: +354 456 5700 E-mail: eurodeskis@eurodesk.org Website: <http://www.gamlaapotekid.is>

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture contracted The Sports and Youth Council of Reykjavik to run the Icelandic national agency for the Youth Programme. The programme is implemented as prescribed in the USER#S GUIDE issued at:<http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth>

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

N.I.

4.2 National Programmes on youth

Large NGOŽs apply national programmes every year.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people

N.A.

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth

The Directorate of Labour works jointly with local councils on providing young people suitable jobs, with emphasis on 16 to 25 year old.

6 Budget

6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

N.I. *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

N.I.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



6.3 Tendencies

N.I.

7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

No formal Youth Policy exists at present. The Prime Minister's Office has however for the past 3 years been working towards making a direct policy in youth matters in Iceland. In April 2005 the Office issued a report on various issues concerning young people. The report is supposed to be a guideline for National Authorities on Youth Issues in the near future.

8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities

N.A.

9 Useful links

www.youth.is www.ufe.is www.esb.is/ung/ <http://felagsmalaraduneyti.is/malaflokkar/fjolskyldurad>
www.bvs.is www.reykjavik.is www.itr.is www.hitthusid.is www.redcross.is www.government.is
www.barnivanda.is www.eng.mennta

10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

N.A. A youth policy as a public document has not been issued in Iceland yet.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net

