

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.

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SWEDEN, 2005

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

2022763 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

22,4 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

| 13-15 | 16-18 | 19-21 | 22-24 | 25-27 | 28-30 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5,7 % | 3,8 % | 3,5 % | 3,5 % | 3,5 % | 3,9 % |

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

| Male | Female |
|--------|--------|
| 51,1 % | 48,9 % |

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 | 48,6 % | 48,7 % | 48,7 % | 49,1 % | 49,1 % | 49,1 % |
| Male | 51,4 % | 51,3 % | 51,3 % | 50,9 % | 50,9 % | 50,9 % |

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

N/A %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

N/A %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

N/A %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

N/A %

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

2,8 %

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, research and culture

Name of minister

Ms. Lena Hallengren, Minister of youth affairs

Duration of mandate

N/A *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

7 persons

Contact person in the youth department

State secretary: Agneta Karlsson, registrator@educult.ministry.se

Function, role and competence of youth department

N/A

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs; Inger Ashing, head of National youth policy departement: inger@ungdomsstyrelsen.se The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is a governmental authority which works in four policy areas. We allocate grants and work with method development within the areas of Leisure and associative activities and International youth programmes. We stimulate the development of Municipal youth policy and follow up the objectives of the National youth policy. The Children's Ombudsman; ms. Lena Nyberg, Ombudsman, barnombudsmannen@bo.se The Children's Ombudsman is a Government agency. The agency's main duty is to promote the rights and interests of children and young people as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the CRC). The agency monitors the implementation of the CRC in Sweden. For instance the Ombudsman submits bills for legislative changes to the Swedish Government and promotes the application of the CRC in the work of government agencies, municipalities and county councils. The agency also disseminates information on the Convention. A key duty of the Children's Ombudsman is to participate in public debate, promote public interest regarding key issues, and influence the attitudes of decision-makers and the public. However, the Ombudsman does not supervise other authorities and, by law, may not interfere in individual cases.

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

N/A

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

N/A

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

The County Administrative Boards. Ingegerd Wärnersson, Deputy Governor of Blekinge www.k.lst.se Ingrid Dahlberg, Deputy Governor of Dalarna www.w.lst.se Marianne Samuelsson, Deputy Governor of Gotland www.i.lst.se Christer Eirefelt, Deputy Governor of Gävleborg www.x.lst.se Lars-Erik Lövdén, Deputy Governor of Halland www.n.lst.se Maggi Mikaelsson, Deputy Governor of Jämtland www.z.lst.se Lars Engqvist, Deputy Governor of Jönköping www.f.lst.se Sven Lindgren, Deputy Governor of Kalmar www.h.lst.se Lars-Åke Lagrell, Deputy Governor of Kronoberg www.g.lst.se Per-Ola Eriksson, Deputy Governor of Norrbotten www.bd.lst.se Bengt Holgersson, Deputy Governor of Skåne www.m.lst.se Mats Hellström, Deputy Governor of Stockholm www.ab.lst.se Bo Holmberg, Deputy Governor of Södermanland www.d.lst.se Anders Björck, Deputy Governor of Uppsala www.c.lst.se Eva Eriksson, Deputy Governor of Värmland www.s.lst.se Lorentz Andersson, Deputy Governor of Västerbotten www.ac.lst.se Gerhard Larsson, Deputy Governor of Västernorrland www.y.lst.se Mats Svegfors, Deputy Governor of Västmanland www.u.lst.se Göte Bernhardsson, Deputy Governor of Västra Götaland www.o.lst.se Sören Gunnarsson, Deputy Governor of Örebro www.t.lst.se Björn Eriksson, Deputy Governor of Östergötland www.e.lst.se Sweden is divided into 21 counties, each of which has its own County Administration and County Governor. The County Administrations function as representatives of the state in their respective counties, and as links between the inhabitants, the municipal authorities, the Central Government, the Swedish Parliament and the central state authorities. The role of County Administrations include: # Seeing to it that national targets are attained # Coordinating the varying interests of their counties # Promoting the development of their counties # Setting targets to be attained at regional level # Ensuring that the rule of law is not infringed A number of the County Administrations function in preparatory or administrative capacities in the connection to the EU-programmes.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

Sweden has 290 Municipalities which all have a local government. The local authorities and the county councils/regions are responsible for providing a major part of all public services. They have considerable degree of autonomy and have independent powers of taxation. Local self-government and the right to levy taxes are stipulated in the Instrument of Government, one of the four pillars of the Swedish Constitution. The municipalities are responsible for: social services, schools, spatial planning and building, health and environmental protection, refuse collection and waste disposal, rescue services, water and sewerage, order and security. Voluntary activities are:



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recreation activities, culture, housing, energy, industrial facilities and employment. Because it is voluntary for the municipalities to engage in these fields due to their autonomy, they will do so in different ways and to a greater or less extent. Some have an elaborate overall youth policy while others have not. For further reading about the municipalities go to: www.skl.se. For access to the different municipalities' webpages use the following link.

<http://www.skl.se/artikel.asp?C=2063&A=5052>

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

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

N/A

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

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

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (The LSU). The LSU is a coordinating body for almost 100 all kinds of Swedish youth organisations. The LSU constitute a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations. They provide a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation. The LSU is an important creator of public opinion. Children's Rights In Society (BRIS). The primary commitment of BRIS is to unconditionally, stand on children's side. Bris support service for children and young people are based on The Children's helpline and the Bris-mail. From these contacts Bris collects statistics of troubled children and young people all over Sweden, which means that Bris's advisory role has a big impact. BRIS is a national association operating from five large cities. Save the Children, Sweden. www.rb.se. Save the Children, Sweden work for children's rights in Sweden and internationally. The organisation has a local office in every municipality in Sweden. By having a good knowledge of children's rights and conditions, they influence public opinion and exert an influence on those in power to see to the best interests of the child. The organisation are spreading their knowledge and experience to those who have influence over children's conditions. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and the Federation of Swedish County Councils represent the governmental, professional and employer-related interests of Sweden's 290 local authorities, 18 county councils and two regions. SALAR has the mandate of the municipalities to look after and pursue their interest. They play an important role as an advisory body in many fields as well as in the youth field.

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

Sveriges elevråd (Svea), Sweden's Student Councils. Svea is a national umbrella organisation for local student councils in Sweden. Address: Ölandsgatan 49A 116 63 Stockholm Sweden Phone: +46-8-562 788 00 e-mail: info@svea.org webpage: www.svea.org Sweden's Youth Councils, Sveriges Ungdomsråd (SU): SU is a national umbrella organisation for local Youth Councils in Sweden. Address: Box 510 351 06 Växjö Sweden e-mail: kontakt@sverigesungdomsrad.se



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webpage: www.sverigesungdomsrad.se

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

LSU: The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisation. Address: Pustegränd 1-3 118 20 Stockholm Sweden Phone: +46-8-440 86 70 e-mail: info@lsu.se webpage: www.lsu.se Sverok: the Swedish Role Playing and Conflict Gaming Federation, is a nationwide organization for gamers in Sweden. Address: Klostergatan 5A 582 23 Linköping Sweden Phone:+46-13-14 06 00 e-mail: info@sverok.se webpage: www.sverok.se

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

N/A

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

N/A

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Like most other democracies, Sweden has a written Constitution which sets out the rules for political decision-making. Instead of one document, Sweden has four fundamental laws: the Instrument of Government, the Act of Succession, the Freedom of the Press Act and the Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression. These laws serve as a basis for how Sweden is ruled. They also serve to protect the citizens' freedoms and rights. There are no articles or laws in the constitution that specifically concern youth, they concern every citizen. Source: www.riksdagen.se

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

The Swedish Constitution has four fundamental laws: the Instrument of Government, the Act of Succession, the Freedom of the Press Act and the Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression. The Fundamental rights and Freedoms are chiefly protected in three of these four fundamental laws; The instrument of Government, The Freedom of the Press Act and the Freedom of Expression. The protection of the Fundamental rights and Freedoms is found principally in the two first chapters of the Government Act. The first chapter establish that the public/government power shall be exercised with respect for every person's equal worth and for the individual person's freedom and dignity. It is also stated that the state system shall especially secure the right to work, housing and education and also work for social care and security and for a good living environment. In the second chapter of the Government Act there are provisions on fundamental



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freedoms and rights for example the positive and negative freedoms of opinion and the physical integrity. In the same chapter it is stated that law or other regulations cannot have the effect that any citizen is unfairly treated because he/she with regards to race, colour of the skin or ethnic origin belongs to a minority. It is also stipulated that law or any other regulation cannot have the effect that any citizen is unfairly treated because of his/her gender. In the second chapter of the Government Act there are regulations for which freedoms and rights that can be restricted, in what form restrictions can be decided and what common principles that must be observed for a restriction to be allowed. In addition to the fundamental laws there are a number of Swedish laws and regulations on other levels that has practical signification for the individual person's freedoms and rights. For instant there are laws and regulations concerning healthcare, social services, correctional treatment, protection against different forms of discrimination.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

The Children's Ombudsman is a government agency which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC in Sweden. For instance the Ombudsman submits bills for legislative changes to the Swedish Government and promotes the application of the CRC in the work of government agencies, municipalities and county councils. Source: www.bo.se

3.4 National legislation on youth

N/A

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

N/A

3.6 Guidelines

N/A

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

The different European programmes in Sweden are the EU program Youth, Leonardo and Socrates.

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Mr. Vegard Hölaas Head of Agency Ungdomsstyrelsen Box 178 01 118 94 Stockholm Sweden tel: +46 8 462 53 65

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Centrum för Internationellt ungdomsutbyte, The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange.



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Pierre Thullberg, director Address: Ludvigbergsgatan 22 118 23 Stockholm Sweden Phone: +46 8 44 08 789 e-mail: info@ciu.org webpage: www.ciu.org

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The National Agency for the YOUTH programme is hosted by the National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen). The funding of operating costs are shared by the European Commission and the Swedish government, and the implementation is defined in a work plan for each year, approved by the European Commission. Grants are awarded by the National Agency to youth project applicants on five occasions per year. The grant budget is funded entirely by the European Commission.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

Implemented by the International Programme Office: Socrates Leonardo The International Programme Office: Boo Sjögren, Director General. Address: Box 22007 104 22 Stockholm Sweden Phone: +46 8 453 72 00 e-mail: registrator@programkontoret.se webpage: www.programkontoret.se

4.2 National Programmes on youth

N/A

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 According to the newly Parliament accepted Government Bill on Youth Policy; The Power to decide, the right to welfare 2004/05:2 during the next coming years the Swedish government intend to prioritise efforts directly aimed at young people, in several areas: Increase the employment rate Strengthen the availability for education Make more housing available Strengthen health and security Strengthen the possibilities for influence and participation Increase the availability of culture and leisure. In these different areas the Government has suggestions on action programmes.

6 Budget

No answers available

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

No answers available



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

No answers available

9 Useful links

National Swedish Board for Youth Affairs: www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se The Children's Ombudsman: www.bo.se The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR): www.skl.se Government Offices in Sweden: www.sweden.gov.se Statistics Sweden: www.scb.se

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

Over 1.4 million of the inhabitants of Sweden are young people aged 13-25. The lives of young people are affected by official decisions and initiatives in most policy areas and at all levels of society. In the Government it is the Youth Minister who has the overall responsibility of the youth matters. National youth policy concerns the situation of young people in several different spheres such as work, housing, education, health, leisure time and their opportunity to exert an influence. In September 2004 the Swedish Government put forward a Government Bill to the Swedish Parliament on a new Youth Policy. It was approved by the Parliament in December 2004. The new Youth Policy was named Power to decide right to welfare. The Government Bill has two overall goals for the National Youth Policy: -Young people shall have genuine access to welfare. -Young people shall have genuine access to power. By young people's genuine access to welfare the Government means that all young people shall have the possibility of a good material, cultural and social living standard. Real access to power means that young people shall have the possibility of influencing the social progress at large, their own lives and their local environment.



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