

8 Survey Results

8.1 Availability of Data

In most of the European countries participating in this survey reporting about the structures of and the participation in youth work is possible only by combining data from different sources. With the exception of Germany, no country has regulations for compulsory, regularly and comprehensive reporting on youth work. The availability of data about youth work depends on different factors that can be identified as follows:

- The existence of specific national youth programmes funded with European or national budgets
- Examples of this can be found in all countries. In Spain for instance, the data accessible at national level results from the monitoring of a special job insertion programme (INEM).
- The existence of ministries or agencies responsible for implementing and monitoring youth work policies
- Romania can be named here as an example: here, the National Youth Authority involves the municipalities in reporting as they fund their youth activities.
- The need for monitoring developments in youth work according to political requirements
- In Germany the responsible ministry for youth affairs has to report to parliament every four years about the living condition of children and young people and about structural developments in the field of youth work.
- Promotion of youth work by youth associations and other institutions
In the Netherlands and in Ireland youth associations report on the activities of their member organisations.
- Scientific research
In Norway the best available source of information on youth participation is a scientific survey conducted in 2002 by the Norwegian Social Research Institute and funded by different sources.

Countries like Austria and Germany publish regular national youth reports. In Austria these reports are published every three years and focus on specific issues. In Germany, the Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth reports to parliament every four years about the living conditions of children and young people and about youth assistance structures. These reports are issue-centred too, but they also provide a broad data base. Moreover all administrative levels in Germany are forced by law to provide data about youth work to the National Statistic Bureau on an annual basis. This data is compiled and published every two to four years.

In countries like Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Spain we can find dispersed studies about youth work issues published by various public institutions. These studies are not regular and they often serve as a mere documentation of the activities of institutions or as evaluations of the performance of special programmes. Norwegian municipalities are also obliged to provide data every year about some kinds of public youth work. For the Netherlands and Ireland it can be stated that the youth associations themselves report about youth work issues involving their associated members. In the Netherlands these reports were unfortunately stopped because of cancelled subventions in 2003.

And finally, in countries such as Greece and Italy there are no reports on youth work issues at all. The available data focuses on national programmes and budgets and tend to follow rather the logic of verifying public funding rather than the documentation of youth work activities. In Romania we meet the situation that reports on youth work issues drawn up by the National Agency for Supporting Young Peoples' Initiatives are not published.

In addition to these surveys, there are also different surveys done for research purposes by researchers working at universities.

In most countries, the available data is not representative. There are three types of reasons for this:

- Existing surveys are based on voluntary the commitment of municipalities or organisations. This is the case in Austria, for instance, where national reports on youth are done on a regular basis, but where not all associations participate, or in the Netherlands where there is a survey of the Dutch municipalities but again without the participation of all of them.
- The surveys collect data from different ministries or agencies for a variety of purposes and do not refer to the system of other surveys. This is the case in the Netherlands where we can find studies from the Association of Dutch Municipalities, from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports and from youth associations about different youth work issues. Another example are the surveys on voluntarism existing in several countries (i.e. Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, the Netherlands) that do not focus precisely enough on the issue of youth work, as their intention is to map the whole landscape and potential of voluntarism.
- The surveys use out-of-date data because the process of documentation and analysis takes a long time. The Italian Institute of Statistical Research, for instance, published reports in 2005 with data from 1999.
- The following table gives an overview about the availability of reports on youth work in the participating countries:

Table 9: Availability of data and structure of reporting

	System of national reporting	Available reports	Best practice	Problems	Reasons for lack of data
Austria	No national reporting system	National Youth Reports focussing on specific issues (i.e. prevention, gender mainstreaming)		No representative data available, as reporting is optional	No national reporting system, regional differences, lack of networking and exchange at national level
Estonia	No national reporting system	Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006 – 2013 Statistic of the National Youth Work Centre	Statistic of the National Youth Work Centre	No data from all youth work institutions	Only public funded projects are registered and visible
Germany	Compulsory annual data report from all administrative levels. Analysis every two or four years Compulsory report on children and young people by the responsible ministry to the parliament every four years	National Child and Youth Work Statistic National Child and Youth Reports National Survey on Voluntarism Statistic of the National Youth Sports Association	System of compulsory reporting at municipal level	No visibility of voluntarism and the whole range of work done by youth associations Labour market oriented data not included in the reporting system	Only public funded projects are registered
Greece	No national reporting system	Online database of non-governmental voluntary organisations from the Centre for the Promotion of Volunteerism 'Anthropos.gr' (http://www.anthropos.gr) Periodic Studies on Youth Employment from the Employment Observatory Report from the National Statistical Service of Greece 'Youth in Greece Today': Study conducted by the Institute of Applied Communications, University of Athens, for the General Secretariat for Youth (2005) 'Youth in Our Times. Values, Attitudes and Beliefs of the Greek Youth': Study conducted by VPRC for the General Secretariat for Youth (2000)		Lack of data on youth issues	Lack of a comprehensive legal framework regarding youth work/youth workers. The fact that youth work studies in Greece does not constitute a distinct, independent, subject of university teaching and research The indifference, until very recently, of the relevant public authorities to the promotion of youth research

Ireland	Youth Work funding review from 2007	National Children's Office Report (2005) Report of the National Committee on Volunteering (2002) White Paper: Supporting Voluntary Activity (2000) Youth Work Ireland AGM Report 2006	Annual reports of youth work agencies	No data about youth work institutions	
Italy	No national reporting system	Report from the Italian Institute of Statistical Research		Data from 1999 not published until 2005	
Netherlands	No national reporting system	Survey of Dutch Municipalities (2003) Study on Sports in the Netherlands (2004) Study on creative education (2005) Online-database, e.g. on leisure time activities and social participation of Dutch citizens	Nederlandse Jeugdgroep survey with member data	Data not representative, as not all municipalities took part in the survey Scattered data from different studies	Youth work is not a political priority Vague definition of youth work Youth work is regulated locally
Norway	Reporting system for some activities of public organisations Reportson public sources of financial funding to voluntary organisations conducting child and youth work	Youth reports based on local and national surveys. Statistics and reports on child welfare		Difficulties in finding valid data because of many different sources and little information in some areas of youth work	Lack of routines for reporting among voluntary organisations conducting youth work
Romania	There is a national system of reporting: local County Youth Departments report their activities to the National Youth Authority at least for the programmes and activities funded by the NYA. Each CYD writes a yearly report on its own activities and sends it to the NYA. For funds provided by the NYA, youth NGOs must report, but the NYA does not publish these reports, only the name of the NGO, the title of the activity funded, and the amount of money given. But there is no data collected on youth workers. The annual reports are not made public or easily accessible.	Online data base of non-governmental associations made available by the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives (2007) Background paper by the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives (2002) Study on Youth by the NASYPI (2005)	NASYPI did one internal youth work survey in order to promote youth work	Scattered data Very recent institutional reorganisation, changes within national and local structures Youth NGOs lack of trust in national and local institutions with regard to management of public funds. Complicated procedure to access funds for youth activities so that youth NGOs get discouraged to apply	Youth work is not clearly defined, and youth workers do not operate within a legal framework. It is difficult to collect data on something non-existing. No special interest shown by national authorities for this topic Only publicly funded projects are registered Local and national youth institutions are not transparent with regard to funds available and decisions on how to spend them. They also do not have a detailed system for collecting data, and sometimes also do not keep their data up to date. Institutional changes have caused changes in data collection and reporting.

Spain	No national system of reporting	Association Census of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Spanish Youth Council Census of Associations Data from the National Employment Institute (2007) Injuve Report on Youth Information Services 2006		No data about youth work institutions	No concept of youth work Scattered responsibility between different levels of administration No common indicators
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The main reasons for the situation described here are:

- Political impact:
 - that there is no political requirement for reporting as youth work is not a priority and indeed sometimes not even recognised as a profession;
 - that the responsibilities for youth work are scattered between different ministries and there is no cross-sectoral cooperation in reporting and
 - that youth work is performed and financed at local level, so that no need is felt for a national report.
- Financial impact:
 - that only publicly funded projects are registered, as spending of the public budget has to be duly administered and monitored.
- Cultural impact:
 - that there is a lack of routine for reporting among voluntary organisations as they are not participating in reporting and
 - that some countries lack the tradition of making funding structures transparent.
- Professional impact:
 - that the concept of youth work is vague and thus common indicators are missing.

Analysing the various national reporting systems reveals individual examples of good practice approaches. These examples were found in contexts where, in the absence of overall data, individual stakeholders were put in charge of gathering information or decided to become active in this respect on their own initiative.

In **Estonia** and **Ireland**, the central state institutions and authorities responsible for the implementation of national youth work policies are also the organisations in charge of central data collection and processing. It is therefore possible to keep track of national and publicly funded measures.

In the **Netherlands**, the Dutch Youth Group documented the work of its member organisations until 2005, when a cut in funding led to the end of this activity. This is one possible approach to publicise the work of youth organisations.

In **Romania**, the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives carried out an investigation and quantitative survey on the number of youth workers in Romania. The background of this study was a desire to shed light on the professional practices of youth workers, and to encourage professional recognition of their work. In this respect, professional organisations and, in some cases, trade unions could be potential initiators of efforts to document youth work.

Germany is a special case. Here, there is legally mandated cooperation between local, state and federal authorities to collect and publish data on youth welfare services. Because of this system, Germany is also the only country with a comprehensive quantitative documentation of youth work. The Dortmund-based Bureau of Children and Youth Welfare Services Statistics then evaluates the data, comments it and exploits it for political processes and professional debate.