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„The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe„

Final Report

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1 Executive Summary

Background of the study: existing data on youth work is unsatisfactory (see page 13)

“Youth activities and youth work play a central role in fostering knowledge and commitment to civil society”. This idea has meanwhile gained full recognition within European institutions and policy but although there is a wide range and diversity of youth work experiences in European countries, there is still only limited specific information available on the youth sector. Existing data is scattered and unsatisfactory, so that the socio-economic importance of youth work is difficult to verify.

Against this background, the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the youth field, with its study on “**The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe**”, intends to bring youth work and learning within youth activities to the foreground and increase their visibility.

Participating European countries (see page 14)

The study presented here has taken a number of important initial steps towards achieving a quantitative overview and analysis of youth work in Europe. The project was carried out in 10 European countries: Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, and Spain.

Methodology (see page 16)

The study proceeded in the following stages:

- qualitative national status reports on youth work,
- quantitative reports at national level,
- quantitative surveys of four municipalities in each country,
- interviews with experts.

Definition of youth work and main activity fields (see page 25)

As no generally recognised and officially established definition of youth work is available for either all European countries as a whole or any of the individual countries involved, the first phase of the project involved a systematic examination of the definitions and legal and structural circumstances of youth work. This has led to the following statements:

- The definition of youth work proposed by Peter Lauritzen, which was assumed as the basis of the project, is indeed the most comprehensive definition available, and the results of the project have not given rise to any need to improve it.

- The study identified the following activities as being the central fields of youth work in the ten European countries surveyed: extracurricular youth education, international youth work, open youth work, participation and peer education prevention of social exclusion/youth social work, recreation, youth counselling, youth information and youth work in sports.

Statements regarding the central task of the study – to provide an quantitative overview and analysis of

- the sectors of specific and related youth activities,
- the money and time invested in them,
- the number of people employed, and
- the young people participating in these activities

– can be made by pooling the results of the quantitative analyses conducted at both national and local levels. Because of the gaps in data found in all of the countries involved, merely combining available national data on youth work did not produce any satisfactory results.

The following can be said of the national data on youth activities:

- the best documented sectors are those of publicly supported youth work and of activities implemented by public providers;
- because participation in the investigations was on a voluntary basis, only partial sectors could be documented, even in the case of publicly funded measures (Austria, the Netherlands);
- in southern European countries (Greece, Italy, Spain), only data gathered at European level on youth information and on the implementation of the ‘Youth in Action’ programme was documented at national level; and
- the structures and services provided by youth associations are not sufficiently visible (Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Norway). In some countries, however, the share of youth work provided by non-public associations can be documented.

No overview on basis of national data (see page 58)

Availability and restrictions regarding national data (see page 67)

Possible indicators at national level (see page 70)

Taking in consideration the diversity of national data about youth work and the difficulties that have to be faced when reporting at European level has to be comparative, some available basic indicators could be identified as the starting point for a future reporting structure. They are based on statistics available from EUROSTAT as well as on data from the Eurobarometer 2007 Survey on Youth and available national data.

Findings: sectors of specific and related youth work (see page 115 and country reports on youth work page 30)

In all European countries that participated in the study a wide range of youth work is available. In most countries we find at least the nine field of activities of youth work defined in this study (extracurricular youth education, international youth work, open youth work, participation and peer education prevention of social exclusion/youth social work, recreation, youth counselling, youth information and youth work in sports). Wherever there are gaps in the data available at national level, information about availability can be found in the local setting and vice versa. Extracurricular youth education and recreation, each of them accounting for an average of 24%, are the most frequent activities offered.

There are nevertheless important distortions at national and indeed in some cases at local level – the consequence of divergences in each country’s understanding of what constitutes youth work, of differences in the categories used in the survey, and of the distribution of administrative responsibility. One example of this is youth sport. In countries where sport is considered part and parcel of youth work, and where it is documented as such, it accounts for a major quantitative share – at least one third to half – of all activities offered. Another example is, in Germany, activities for the prevention of social exclusion. No information is available for this field of youth work, one of the reasons being that most of the activities offered are activities relating to the employment market and falling within the competence of the job centres.

In all countries it can be observed that youth work is performed by different types of providers (public, semi-public and non-public or voluntary). Only in Spain could a predominance of public institutions be traced, as 60% of youth work activities at local level are provided by public institutions. In all other European countries, the non-public sector, with a share of at least 65%, represents the main provider.

The money and time invested in youth activities can be traced either by examining a country's legal provisions or the national budgets of the ministries dedicated to youth issues – in most cases exclusively –, or by looking at expenditure in individual municipalities. However, neither level gives more than an incomplete picture of total expenditure.

The main funding sources of youth work are municipal funds as well as national and European funds. In Austria, public spending covers at least 43% of total expenditure, making it the main source of finance. The Netherlands are an exception: here, membership and participation fees complemented by sponsoring funds make up the lion's share of resources to cover the costs of activities at local level.

However, municipal surveys also show that volunteers represent a considerable share of resources in youth work. In Greece, the survey documented a 48% proportion of honorary workers involved at local level, while in all other countries for which data was available, volunteers accounted for a 75% share of resources if not significantly more.

An overview presented in the study shows that the share of the budgets of youth-specific ministries in total public expenditure ranges from a minimum of 0.001% to a maximum of 0.04%. However, reliable information on the total amounts of time and money spent on youth activities will not be available until public spending at state or local level and the involvement of volunteers can also be documented.

When compared to numbers of volunteers, paid employees account for a significantly lower proportion of youth workers: 8% in the Netherlands to a maximum of 25% in Spain. With the exception of the Netherlands, where part-time contracts dominate, paid youth workers have full-time positions in at least 60% of cases and have had at least professional school education. While the survey shows roughly equal numbers of female and male youth workers at local level in Greece, in most other countries youth work is a primarily female occupation, with the proportion of female workers ranging from a minimum of 60% to 88% in Norway.

Findings: money and time invested in youth activities

(see pages 115 and 117)

Findings: the number of people employed (see page

117)

**Findings:
young people
participating in youth
activities** (see page 119)

Data gathered at municipal level shows that the most popular youth work activities for the participants are extracurricular youth education, sports and recreational activities. The ratio of female to male participants is balanced in most countries; in Norway, male participants dominate with a proportion of 56%. Local surveys show that the main target group of youth work activities in most countries – with the exception of Norway and Romania – is young people up to the age of 19.

**Comments on the socio-
economic scope of youth
work in Europe**

The study has revealed three main findings with regard to the socio-economic effect of youth work.

In all the countries participating in the study, youth work represents a broad range of activities offered at local level. Local youth work is designed and provided not only by state institutions, but in particular by a variety of NGOs that contribute a wealth of time, money, resources and know-how.

Extracurricular youth education constitutes a central field of activity of youth work. Youth work therefore includes an extensive range of structured institutional offers involving non-formal educational activities.

Because of the many committed volunteers involved in youth work, we can claim on the one hand that youth work offers a broad range of opportunities for non-formal educational processes; but on the other hand, the high proportion of volunteers also shows that youth work is a field of activity that attracts and binds large numbers of committed persons.

**Reasons for the
incompleteness of
reporting at national level**
(see page 51)

The present study has clearly shown that there is no country in Europe where the documentation of youth work at national level is free of gaps. None of the participating countries offer a comprehensive image of all actions undertaken in youth work, especially of those actions provided at local level by non-public associations – in particular youth associations or special youth groups within the framework of other associations – without financial support from public institutions. Furthermore, how complete the image of youth work is for a particular country depends very much on the existence and content of the concept of youth work in that country and on the allocation of responsibilities between the various administrative levels.

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 in these cases 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 generally involved 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.

The experts interviewed in the course of the study identified the following four key issues as the main reasons for the limited availability of youth work data:

The first issue is recognition. In all countries the argument was mentioned that youth policy and especially youth work is not a highlighted issue. In several countries experts called for greater efforts in establishing and improving youth work structures. This also includes the fact that in many countries youth work is not sufficiently well established as a profession.

**Experts point of view
on reporting about
youth work** (see page 133)

The second issue concerns funding. To have a well established reporting system requires funds. On the one hand, the experts noted that volunteers are not interested in documentation. Thus data about youth work realised in youth associations is not particularly well surveyed. Youth work structures that rely strongly upon volunteerism have greater difficulties in documenting their work. But monitoring also costs money. The experts argued that additional documentation tasks can only be realised with supplementary funds.

The third issue is know-how. In general, the experts stated that there is no tradition of monitoring and documentation in youth work. There are many uncertainties regarding concepts and indicators, and professional communication needs to be improved. The experts also explained that there is no tradition of defining the processes of non-formal learning in youth work. Furthermore, the great variety of youth activities offered requires intensive work on common categories. In all the countries of the survey, the experts called for more research on youth-related issues.

The fourth issue is visibility. Visibility is a requirement for recognition. It means that the outcomes of youth work need to be transported into public, professional and political opinion. Experts agree that youth work is not visible enough, sometimes even for the young people and the professionals themselves, and that lack of networking between professionals is one of the main reasons for the lack of data.

Local data is basically available

However, the fact that the present study was able to document some local-level youth work – not all of it, but nevertheless large segments – shows that the reason for the limited mapping of youth work at national level is not that there is no youth work going on in the countries concerned but rather that there is no reporting system (and consequently no know-how regarding how to set one up) and that policy-makers see no need for statistical management of youth work at national level, partly because of the application of the subsidiarity principle but also because youth work is not a priority in the country's political agenda.

The following recommendations can be drawn from the conclusions of the present study:

Because of the different national historical contexts and as a result of its orientation to the various life situations of its target groups, youth work is a complex and diverse field suffering from a lack of basic definitions and indicators that could serve as a basis for common reporting. There is therefore a need for

- working more intensely on defining and systematising the relevant concepts,
- establishing central indicators, and
- clarifying the basis for systematising the documentation of youth work from a European perspective.

Recommendation 1

We therefore recommend:

- increased exchanges between experts in the field to intensify and bundle shared knowledge, particularly with regard to the central concepts of youth work;
- intensified debate among experts to explore how useful data might be gathered on the condition of the field of youth work and its socio-economic effects, and agreement on relevant indicators needed for this purpose.

Because youth work is basically a local issue, and because there is therefore little need for management and data collection at national level, youth work continues to be poorly documented at national level.

There is therefore a need for

- increased coordination with regard to information management between local, state, national and European or international levels.

**Recommendation 1:
work on concepts and
indicators** (see page 135)

Recommendation 2:
establish a reporting
system with the
cooperation of all
responsible levels (see
page 136)

Recommendation 2

As a result, we recommend:

- increased exchanges with the competent, in some cases newly established national ministries to prepare for the creation of a European reporting system on youth work, and
- in this context ensuring that local levels are involved, adequately visible and represented.

Target group orientation is another reason why youth work is such a highly diverse field distributed among many competencies. While a number of individual fields of activity can be clearly allocated to youth work and identified as such, others, for instance youth sport, youth vocational counselling and certain areas of salutogenesis are not so clear-cut.

There is therefore a need for

- more intensive cooperation between fields of activity and stakeholders.

Recommendation 3:
improve co-operation
between actors and
sectors of youth
activities (see page 137)

Recommendation 3

As a result, we recommend:

- stronger cooperation among stakeholders, particularly governments, youth associations and perhaps also professional groups to contribute to a common documentation of youth work, and
- more intensive cooperation among the various sectors to identify and document those fields of activity of youth work that, as a result of differences in national traditions, are not sufficiently visible and cannot be clearly allocated to youth work.

2 Introduction

“Youth activities and youth work play a central role in fostering knowledge and commitment to civil society”. This idea is often reflected and has meanwhile gained full recognition within European institutions and policy. In the context of the life-long learning strategy and the Lisbon Agenda to make Europe the most dynamically competitive, sustainable knowledge-based economy in the world, the Council of Europe and European Commission published a joint text on *Pathways towards Validation and Recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the youth field*, which highlights the value of youth non-formal learning towards the development of learning in the knowledge society and civil society renewal. In this context youth non-formal learning is centrally positioned within the Third Sector.

Since 2003 the research strand of the *Partnership on Youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe* (<http://www.youth-partnership.net>) was given among others the objective to work towards increasing the visibility and recognition of youth work and to further elaborate the significance of youth work within the Third Sector. Today the Recognition, quality and visibility of youth work and training

Hence in April 2004 a seminar with the title ‘The Youth Sector and Non-formal Education/Learning: working to make lifelong learning a reality and contributing to the Third Sector’ was organised and its results published¹. The seminar reiterated the need for a mapping of the youth sector to gain a better understanding of the range and occupational aspects of youth work. Further evidence of the associated socio-economic value was required to satisfactorily show the youth sector’s contribution to the 3rd sector as a whole.

Following these recommendations, a literature review was commissioned in 2005 to establish the feasibility for carrying out the present study “The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe”.

The study hopes to provide a quantitative overview and analysis of

- the sectors of specific and related youth activities;
- the money and time invested in them;
- the number of people employed and
- the young people participating in these activities.

It thus hopes to enhance knowledge and understanding of investment in youth activities.

¹ Chisholm, Lynne, Bryony Hoskins (2005): *Trading up - Potential and performance in non-formal learning*, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg

The study was carried out by institutions or experts in ten European countries:

Austria:	Austrian Institute for Youth Research, Vienna
Estonia:	Tartu University, Department of Sociology, Tartu
Germany:	Institute for Social Work and Social Education, Frankfurt/Main
Greece:	Dora Giannaki, Athens
Ireland:	University College Cork, Department of Applied Social Studies, Cork
Italy:	Centre for Training and Research in Public Health, Caltanissetta
Netherlands:	VU University Amsterdam, Department of Sociology, Amsterdam
Norway:	NOVA - Norwegian Social Research, Oslo
Romania:	National Research Institute on Labour and Social Protection, Bucharest
Spain:	University of Valladolid, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Segovia

Those ten European Countries were selected to cover the different regimes of youth work defined in the IARD Study: Norway as an example for the universalistic/parternalistic system, Ireland as an example for the liberal/community-based system, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands as examples for the conservative/corporatist system and Greece, Italy and Spain as examples for the mediterranean/sub-institutionalised system. Romania represents a new member of the European Union and was chosen as an example for a southeastern country in transition. Estonia was chosen as an example for the Baltic States and as a country that is - although under positive conditions of social cohesion - still facing transition and change.

The *Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik* (Institute for Social Work and Social Education) (ISS-Frankfurt/M. e.V.) was the consortium leader and responsible for the management of the project. The ISS-Frankfurt/M. e.V. is a legally independent, non-profit-making association funded in 1974. The ISS-Frankfurt/M. e.V. offers a nation-wide service for public and independent bodies which sponsor social work. This includes consultation projects regarding the implementation of social policy programmes as well as guidance for institutions and public bodies regarding the improvement of methods of social work. Central issues are e.g. Family and Youth Policy, Policy for Vulnerable Groups, Civic Citizenship issues as well as all targets of Integration Policy. Furthermore, the ISS-Frankfurt/M. e.V. does research, gives advice to social institutions in organisational development processes and provides vocational training in social work.

This report focuses on the structures of youth work in these European countries as documented and reported by national reports from the participating institutions and experts.

The first part of the report presents central comparative results regarding

- the definitions of youth work;
- the main fields of action of youth work and
- the pathways to qualification of youth workers.

On the one hand this provides a structured comparison of the main categories influencing the characteristics of youth work in every country. Particularly regarding the main field of action, it also offers a first mutual framework for commitment on the central categories of youth work in an European context. Short qualitative descriptions of the status of youth work in each country provide the opportunity to deepen the understanding of the nature of youth work in each national context.

The second part of the report presents and analyses the available data about youth work at each national level. It provides an overview of the reporting structures and routines in each country and identifies best practices in reporting. The data sources are presented; the scope of the available data is discussed as well as the reasons for the lack of statistic material.

As the categories of youth work are not comparable, the data available for each country is presented in separate tables. This gives an overview of the statistically reliable part of youth work and allows gaps to be identified.

The third part of the report processes the data about youth work collected by each institution at local level and discusses the particularities of each country. This section examines the main statements made about the nature and scope of youth work and contrasts them to the findings at national level.

Part four of this report contains the central findings and discussions lines of the study regarding

- the significance of the data about youth work
- the statistically educible nature and scope of youth work
- the necessary structures and categories of reporting and
- the favourable conditions and constraints of documentation.

Finally the last part of the report summarises some recommendations regarding possible further action at European level. These recommendations are the result of the fruitful discussions of experts at the concluding conference held on 18 June 2007 in Strasbourg.

3 Methodology

The study on “The Socio-Economic Scope of Youth Work” was realised in 7 steps.

Step 1: National status reports

All partners prepared a national status report compiling available data regarding:

- a description of their national welfare system;
- the national definition of youth work;
- the legal conditions;
- the financial sources;
- the structure, institutions and stakeholders;
- the main fields of action;
- linkages to the 3rd sector
- and recent political topics related to Youth Work.

Step 2: First partners' meeting

The first partners' meeting was held in January 2007. The meeting outcomes were:

- a work plan;
- criteria for the selection of municipalities;
- a data scheme for the presentation of national and local data;
- central questions for the experts interviews
- decisions on the structure of the final national reports.

Step 3: National statistical reports

Each participating country drew up a national statistical report compiling available data about:

Table 1: Data about of youth work

YOUTH WORK
Number of activities per category of youth work:
Cultural youth work
Extracurricular youth education
Children and youth recreation
Open youth work, youth clubs etc.
Youth associations and youth groups
Street work / mobile youth work
Sports
Youth counselling
Advised (adventure) playgrounds
International youth work
Youth social services
Youth education (within the formal system)
Youth employment
Youth information
Number of activities per type of association
Public organisations
Non-public associations
Semi-public organisations
Voluntary organisations
Budget of youth work (amount and/or relation between sources of finance)
Per category of youth work (see above)
Per type of association (public/non-public)
General spending relation to other fields of work

Table 2: Data about youth workers

YOUTH WORKERS
Number of 'youth workers' (professionals working in the field of youth work)
Per category (see above)
Per association (see above)
Ratio of males to females
Per category (see above)
Qualification of youth workers in the field of education/social work/(social) pedagogy
Professional school
Higher education
Qualification of youth workers in other professions
Professional school
Higher education

No formal qualification
Ratio of qualification of youth workers per association (public/non-public)
Employment structure
Number of youth workers in full-time employment
Number of youth workers in part-time employment
Number of youth workers in spare-time work
Number of volunteers
Per category (see above)
Per association (see above)
Per gender
Activities of volunteers
Training of volunteers

Table 3: Data about participants

PARTICIPANTS
Number of participants per category (see above)
Ratio of male/female participants per category (see above)
Participants per activity and association (see above)
Number of participants per 100,000 youngsters/or relation to age group
Participants according to age group per category (see above)
13 to 14 years
15 to 19 years
20 to 24 years
25 to 30 years

Step 4: Local statistical reports

According to the agreed structure for data monitoring at national level, each partner organisation had to survey data from 4 different municipalities. Criteria for the selection of municipalities were:

- Rural/urban disparities
- Development disparities between regions due to different traditions (north/south/east/west)
- Different structures of implementation of the welfare state
- Socio-demographic disparities:
 - Ethnic and linguistic particularities
 - Social distinctions

The partners developed questionnaires and distributed them to institutions in the selected municipalities. The data was aggregated, analysed and presented in a local level data survey report.

Step 5: Interviews with stakeholders

After having conducted the survey, the partners discussed the national situation of existing data of youth work with 5 to 10 national experts. The interviews were done by telephone. Possible common questions for the interviews with stakeholders were

- Reasons for constraints regarding the availability of data
- Required data for the visibility and recognition of youth work
- Definition of youth work
- Central national issues regarding youth work
- Different issues regarding national findings

Every partner could decide according to the national situation which stakeholders had to be interviewed i.e. youth workers, scientists, associations, budget and policy management agencies etc.

Step 6: Second partners' meeting

The second partners' meeting was held on 17 June in Strasbourg. The meeting was used to report about the experiences made and to discuss the general findings of the project. The draft report was revised and further contributions fixed. The meeting was also used to prepare the transfer workshop and to agree a common presentation.

Step 7: Transfer workshop

The transfer workshop was scheduled to create a feedback round with experts from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Partnership Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, with representatives from the European Youth Forum and researchers.

The partners of the consortium presented their findings, which were then discussed, highlighted and completed with recommendations.

4 Definitions of Youth Work

To describe the nature and scope of youth work in Europe it is first of all necessary to stress that there is no consistent definition of youth work either in all European countries or even in any single country. Youth work is a summary expression shaped by different traditions and by different legal and administrative frameworks, and it is used for a wide range of activities.

Regarding the legislative conditions of youth work the following overview can be given:

Table 4: Traditions and frameworks of youth work

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Legislation at national level	Federal Act on the promotion of Youth	Youth Work Act	Children and Youth Service Act	Endorsed in various laws	Youth Work Act	Endorsed in various laws	Youth Care Act, Social Support Act	Child Welfare Act	Romanian Law on Youth	Endorsed in other (labour market) legislation
Additional legislation at state level	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Definition within the legislation	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No

Youth work is not regulated by law or by a specific Youth Work Act in every country. Austria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Romania have specific legislation that establishes a framework for the provision of youth work. In Greece, Italy and Spain, youth work is endorsed in various laws, mainly in legislation regarding youth employment and education. In the Netherlands youth care is regulated by law, while leisure-time-oriented youth work is traditionally less exposed to the influence of the state and thus remains less regulated. In general it can be stated that youth work is part of both the welfare and the educational system, and in some countries, such as Italy, Greece and Spain, there are also intersections with the employment policy sector and – in Italy and Greece – also with the health system.

Although in some countries youth policy is shaped at state level or in autonomous regions, only Germany and Ireland have the possibility of regulating youth policy by law at that level.

These two countries also define youth work within the legislative framework. In Germany youth work was defined in 1991 within the Children and Youth Service Act with the aim of strengthening its status as an independent work field. In Ireland the definition has to be understood against the background of transformation of the landscape of youth work, with the state moving towards becoming the key stakeholder.

Some of the reasons for the inconsistent definition of youth work may be on the one hand the traditional absence of youth policy in some countries and on the other hand the tradition of self-determination and process-related development of the youth work sector in some other countries. In addition, the growing necessity to deal with socio-economic changes in society and to address problems of social exclusion has constantly influenced the development and adaptation of youth work.

Despite this situation, the experts compiled definitions of youth work for their countries as they are listed in the given overview. Except for Ireland and Romania, these definitions have no official nature; they can be understood as descriptive attempts combining the most common national understanding about youth work.

Table 5: Definitions and aims of youth work

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Definition	Extracurricular youth work with emphasis on leisure time activities and prevention (Source)	Youth work is the creation of circumstances for developmental activities of youth that enable them to act outside their family, curriculum education and job of their own free will.	Offers for young people that support their development by picking up their interests allowing codetermination, fostering self-definition and encouraging social responsibility and participation	Education and welfare services to support young people's safe and healthy transition to adult life, as well as leisure time activities	Planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal academic or vocational educational training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations	Initiatives that favour the access of young people to the labour market	Supportive and reactive services, as well as broad leisure oriented offers	Giving young people an interesting and meaningful leisure time and opportunities of personal development through participation and social interaction	Any activity organised to improve the necessary conditions for the social and professional development of youth according to their necessities and wishes	Activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature with and for young people
Aims	Prevention, problem intervention, education and accomplishments in the social and political field, leisure time and experiences	The aim of youth work is to create prerequisites and support youth in managing as members of society	Social and personal development focussed on the concepts of self-definition, participation and integration	Social and personal development of young persons. Enhancement of active political participation and social inclusion of young people	Social and personal development of the youth population on the basis of voluntary participation	Provision of better transition opportunities to adult life (jobs, housing, participation in public life etc.)	Social participation and social inclusion	Introduction to participation and democracy. Prevention of social exclusion and marginalisation	Access to information provided to young people, involvement in civic activities: ecological, political, community support activities, addressing exclusion through prevention, political participation inclusion and integration, self-development, education, offering space, time and support for leisure time activities	Neutralisation of young people's social exclusion and marginalisation. Strengthening the participation and integration of young people in different spheres of society as citizens with full rights

In general we can state that in all countries youth work is defined as a domain of 'out-of-school' education and thus linked to non-formal or informal learning. Only in Italy, where youth policy was traditionally non-existent or reduced to dispersed local initiatives, is youth work defined more exclusively in terms of the formal education and labour market sectors. We can see that most of the definitions contain two basic orientations reflecting a double concern: to provide favourable (leisure time oriented) experiences (of social, cultural, educational or political nature) in order to strengthen young people's personal development and foster their personal and social autonomy, and at the same time to offer opportunities for the integration and inclusion of young people in adult society by fostering societal integration in general or preventing the exclusion of disadvantaged groups. Complementing the definitions with the aims of youth work, we can state that those countries that face greater problems to integrate their young people into an economical, residential and family-oriented independent life have definitions that are more exclusively focussed on the socialising aspect of youth work.

Regarding the target groups we can state that in all countries youth work addresses young people in general as well as disadvantaged or socially excluded groups. Although there are certainly different priorities in general youth services and targeted services, it can be argued that the aspects of participation and protection are given in all countries.

Table 6: Target groups and age groups of youth work

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Target groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people included disadvantaged, socially excluded and regionally marginalised groups	Disadvantaged and socially excluded groups as well as all young people	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	All young people as well as disadvantaged and socially excluded groups	Disadvantaged and socially excluded groups as well as all young people
Age	11-25 years	7-26 years	14-27 years	>30 years	10-25 years	15-36 years	>23 years	>26 years	15-35 years	15-29 years

There are nevertheless great disparities in the definition of the age groups. Indeed, each country has its own definition of this span of life. While in Greece, the Netherlands and Norway the minimum age is not defined, in Estonia young people are defined from age 7 upwards, in Ireland from age 10 upwards, in Austria from age 11, in Germany from age 14 upwards and in Italy, Romania and Spain from age 15 upwards.

In the Netherlands the definition of youth includes young people until the age of 23. In Austria and Ireland young people under 25 are included in the definition. In Estonia and Norway youth is defined as ending at 26, in Germany at 27. In Spain, Greece, Romania and Italy we find the broadest definitions, with age ranges extending until 29 to 36 years.

The reasons for these disparities seem to emerge from the concept of youth work in each country. In Greece, the Netherlands and Norway, where the idea of social inclusion is one of the explicit aims of youth work, children are part of the target groups of youth work. In

countries like Austria, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Romania and Spain, which in their concept of youth work focus on the development of a social independent life or on specific leisure time interests of youngsters, a differentiation is made between children and young people. Countries like Greece, Italy and Romania have an extended definition of youth, as they focus especially on labour market insertion. In Germany youngsters are defined till 27 years to facilitate voluntarism within youth work.

5 Definition of main Action Fields of Youth Work

The range of activities provided by youth work associations and institutions varies from country to country and depends on different national youth work traditions. But the following overview shows that even in European countries where it traditionally has a more marginal position, youth work provides a broad spectrum of activities. It takes place in a wide and varied setting including recreational activities, sports, extracurricular education, youth information, counselling and participation as well as career services, education and personal support for youngsters at risk.

Table 7: action fields of youth work

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Main action fields	Open youth work	Open youth work/centres	Extracurricular youth education	Career services	Youth associations	Education	Youth participation	Youth clubs	Recreational/leisure time activities	Education
	Youth associations		Open youth work/clubs	Youth Information	Youth centres	Socio cultural youth work	Youth information	Services for disadvantaged groups	International youth work	Cultural youth work
	Institutional youth work	International youth work	Sports	Youth counselling	Education	Sports	Youth education	Youth associations	Youth information	Leisure time oriented youth work
	Recreation/leisure time activities	Peer education	Target group oriented youth work	Education for disadvantaged target groups	Personal social services	Social support	Youth social work	Cultural youth work	Youth associations	Youth information
	Mobile youth work	Prevention activities	Youth associations and participation	Cultural education			Youth centres	Sports	Volunteering	
	Sports	Sports	Youth social work	Open youth work			Youth associations	Recreational activities	Counselling	
	Pedagogical prevention activities	Youth counselling	International youth work	Social care			Streetwork	Participation	Cultural youth work	
	Cultural youth work	Youth information	Youth counselling	Sports			Sports			
	Youth counselling			International youth work						
	Youth information			Youth associations and participation						
	International youth work			Recreation and leisure services						

Although the terminology of youth work varies from country to country, the categories of youth work listed below were identified as those categories that are most appropriate to map the range of youth work provided in all European countries participating in this study. The list should be understood as an initial systematisation attempt. It is not intended as a definitive list, and could be expanded by adding new spheres of activity.

a) Extracurricular youth education:

The organisers of extracurricular youth education offer basic services relating to general, political, social, health-oriented, cultural, ecological and technical out-of-school education of non-formal or informal character. They offer experiential education programmes, or a targeted emphasis on group sessions, projects and events. A large number of programmes and services in extracurricular youth education also contain aspects of primary prevention - by examining one's own life, by exposing young people to experiences of enjoyment, fun,

pleasure, and desire, by strengthening their self-esteem, by examining values and ideologies, or simply by community experiences during individual activities. Finally, their services range also from problem intervention for young persons, who are already affected by one or more risk areas and for whom they offer counselling and personal support, to offers for a sheltered and support-oriented environment. Nowadays there is a growing recognition that extracurricular youth education can (among other services and offers) sustainably promote the type of basic and key competences that are increasingly understood as preparation for working life and a general enhancement of “employability”.

b) International youth work²:

International youth work consists of professionally guided activities in professionally organised and settings related to international contexts. It provides to young people from different countries, ethnic backgrounds and cultures with opportunities to meet and to reflect the experiences made in the intercultural dimension and to widen their cultural knowledge and enhance their personal skills (i.e. interaction, communication and understanding). International youth work consisting of extracurricular educational opportunities and leisure time activities is regularly provided during holiday and vacation time

c) Open youth work³:

Open youth work provides a space (e.g. youth centre or youth club) which is principally open to all young people from the local community or territory. In most cases, the space (and the time, i.e. programme) is only partly pre-structured by youth workers and is supposed to be actively appropriated by the young people themselves. Leisure time activities cover a great part of open youth work, but they are also the context in which other social and educational tasks (also for marginalised groups) and outreaching activities are realised.

d) Participation and peer education⁴:

Participation is about having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and, where necessary, the support to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society. Actions designed to promote youth participation include different approaches to becoming an active citizen for instance 'taking an active role both in the development of one's own environment, at local, national and European level'. They provide opportunities for group effort toward a common goal; involve youngsters in responsible, challenging action that meets genuine needs, with opportunities for planning and/or decision-making. Youth associations play a central role in the provision of opportunities for participation and peer education. They provide non-formal and informal

² see: <http://www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/Publications/tkits/tkit4.html>; www.dija.de, Modul “Interkulturelles Lernen”

³ See: IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 130

⁴ see: IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 130

education, primary prevention and social integration opportunities, space for conviviality and social model learning from peers. With their range of profiles youth associations offer different possibilities for identification as their work is optional, voluntary, self-organised, lobbying the interests of youngsters and value-based.

e) Prevention of social exclusion/youth social work⁵:

Youth work aimed at the prevention of social exclusion encompasses counselling, support, education, training and employment opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or individually impaired young people to support their social integration, their formal education and their integration into the labour market and/or adult life.

f) Recreation⁶:

Play, recreation and leisure services encourage and facilitate young people`s effective use of their leisure time. Leisure time activities may include games, sports, cultural events, entertainment and community service and aim to contribute to the development of the physical, intellectual and potential development of young people. These activities provide youth specific socialisation opportunities as well as space and opportunities to appropriate youth life in modern structured places. Recently prevention and recreations aspects have gained specific importance as they provide young people living under difficult conditions i.e. poverty recuperation and regeneration opportunities.

g) Youth Counselling⁷:

Youth counselling addresses young people and their youth-specific questions and problems. It provides them with information and support based on professional counselling techniques and trespass-management to other institutions. Counselling can cover school problems, career management and insertion into the labour market, crisis intervention in partnership or family-related problems, health and legal issues. It can be provided “on the doorstep”, in specific counselling agencies or by telephone, e-mail or Internet.

h) Youth information⁸:

Youth information consist of comprehensive, coherent and coordinated information services that take account of the specific needs of young people and are youth friendly and economically accessible. They are provided by youth information centres or services and disseminated through all information channels, particular those most frequently used by

⁵ see: IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 128

⁶ see: IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 134; *World Programme of Action for Youth to the year 2000 and beyond*, Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly (A/50/728, 13 March 1996), United Nations, page 23

⁷ see: IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 131

⁸ see: ERYICA, European Youth Information Charter, 2004

young people, such as the Internet, mobile phones etc. One aim of youth information is to make information accessible to youngsters on a non-discriminatory basis. Youth information also addresses the growing challenges of orientation in an increasingly complex post-modern world and teaches young people how to better obtain, select and evaluate information. The aim of youth information is to increase the variety of accessible choices by providing direct or indirect neutral information on public issues and to enable youth to make independent choices in organising their lives.

i) Youth work in sports:

Youth work in sports encourages and supports young people to experience and participate in a range of physical activities and sports which help to promote a fit and active lifestyle. It provides young people with opportunities to learn to cope with success and failure, acknowledge the success of others, participate as team members, learn to abide by rules and regulations and come in contact with other young people of different ethnic and social backgrounds. Youngsters can experience personal challenge by trying to improve their own performance, gain new skills or try new activities. Innovative educational methods oriented to the symbolism of adventure and involving the body and physical activity address socio-economically disadvantaged or violent young people in particular.

Before the backdrop of the results regarding the definition of youth work and its scope, we would at this point like to refer to the definition of youth work proposed by Peter Lauritzen⁹:

“The main objective of youth work is to provide opportunities for young people to shape their own futures. Youth work is a summary expression for activities with and for young people of a social, cultural, educational or political nature. Increasingly, youth work activities also include sports and services for young people. Youth work belongs to the domain of ‘out-of-school’ education, most commonly referred to as either non-formal or informal learning.

The general aims of youth work are the integration and inclusion of young people in society. It may also aim towards the personal and social emancipation of young people from dependency and exploitation.

Youth work belongs both to the social welfare and to the educational systems. In some countries it is regulated by law and administered by state civil servants, in particular at local level. However, there exists an important relation between these professional and voluntary workers which is at times antagonistic, and at others, cooperative.

The definition of youth work is diverse. While it is recognised, promoted and financed by public authorities in many European countries, it has only a marginal status in others where it remains of an entirely voluntary nature. What is considered in one country to be the work of traditional ‘youth workers’ - be it professionals or volunteers - may be carried out by

⁹ <http://www.youth-knowledge.net/INTEGRATION/EKC/Glossary/>

consultants in another, or by neighbourhoods and families in yet another country or, indeed, not at all in many places.

Today, the difficulty within state systems to adequately ensure global access to education and the labour market, means that youth work increasingly deals with unemployment, educational failure, marginalisation and social exclusion. Increasingly, youth work overlaps with the area of social services previously undertaken by the welfare state. It, therefore, includes work on aspects such as education, employment, assistance and guidance, housing, mobility, criminal justice and health, as well as the more traditional areas of participation, youth politics, cultural activities, career guidance, leisure and sports. Youth work often seeks to reach out to particular groups of young people such as disadvantaged youth in socially deprived neighbourhoods, or immigrant youth including refugees and asylum seekers. Youth work may at times be organised around a particular religious tradition”.

This definition of youth work, which forms the basis of the study, has ultimately proved to be the most comprehensive. The results of the investigation have not given rise to any need for expanding or reformulating it in more precise terms.

6 Country Reports on Youth Work

To deepen the understanding of the nature of youth work in each national context below a short overview will now be given on the structure and status of youth work in each country.

6.1 Austria

Youth work in Austria is divided into open youth work, youth associations, institutional youth work and commercial youth work. There are also so-called “youth initiatives” i.e. youth services offered by young people to young people. This relatively new kind of youth work can be defined as peer group education, and it is prevalent in the area of prevention in Austria¹⁰. Open youth work in Austria consists of youth centres, mobile youth work and regional youth information services as well as regional and local initiatives.¹¹ It essentially focuses on providing young people with space to structure and organise their leisure time on their own. Open youth work is generally open to all young people – hence the name –and there is no membership required or regular participation expected. Open youth work – especially in the area of prevention - focuses more on socially disadvantaged young people whereas organisationally structured youth work sees the non-deprived youth as their target group¹².

Youth associations in Austria are quite diverse. There are youth associations with different political or religious backgrounds. In the past distinction was made along ideological lines, meaning that there were two different political camps with distinctive cultures and ideologies: one associated with trade unions and the Socialist Party (SPÖ), the other with the Catholic Church and the People’s Party (ÖVP). Young people grew up in one or the other “camps” and also joined organisations affiliated with their “camps”. Due to socio-structural and cultural change in Austria this system has somewhat changed over the last ten to twenty years but there are still a lot of organisations which can be characterised as part of the “camp system”¹³.

The target group of most Austrian youth organisations is quite diverse and often not limited to a specific age group. There is nevertheless a tendency to address 15- to 19-year-olds in extracurricular youth work. Youth organisations also target 20- to 24-year-olds. All in all, however, there are youth services offered to all age groups. According to the fourth youth report commissioned by the Austrian government, 93% of all youth groups and youth organisations see school pupils as their main target group, 88% address themselves mainly to apprentices and 80% to university students. 72% of all providers of youth work claim that young adults who work or are unemployed take part in their services¹⁴.

¹⁰ 4. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2003b)

¹¹ BMSG (2006): Youth Policy in Austria, p.9

¹² BMSG (2006): Youth Policy in Austria, p.9

¹³ IARD (2001); p.31-32

¹⁴ IARD (2001); p.31-32 d.

In Austria, institutional youth work is youth work carried out by state or municipal youth departments. Each one of the nine states of the Austrian federation has its own youth department, which coordinates youth work in the state, offers services and organises activities for young people.

With regard to youth information, there are Internet portals affiliated with the federal government that provide information on various topics related to young people. Making youth-relevant information available is a concept encouraged by European Commission's White Paper on youth. The aim is to provide young people as well as youth workers and parents with helpful information on different issues¹⁵.

One of the most important fields of action in Austrian youth work of all kinds is the field of prevention of social problems. Not only do many youth organisations identify prevention as their main focus, but there is also a lot of prevention work done without even recognising it as such. Nine in ten youth organisations offer activities to help young people gain more self-confidence and more self-control – something which is generally perceived as a preventative measure. The topics covered by prevention in youth work are mainly in the fields of drug abuse/addiction and violence, followed by sexual abuse and AIDS/HIV. Other areas of preventative youth work are racism, criminal behaviour, sexuality and hazardous leisure time activities.¹⁶ A lot of youth work takes the form of activities such as parties or sporting events. There are also workshops covering a wide range of issues and educational offers. Most youth organisations give their target public the opportunity to work creatively in different areas such as youth, environment or drugs and addiction. The latter topics once again fall into the category of preventative youth work¹⁷. In addition, youth work in Austria includes counselling for young people. Over 70% of youth institutions offer counselling services to assist young individuals with issues such as occupational choices and work-related questions as well as problems pertaining to drugs and addiction in general. Other areas covered by this type of counselling are school-related issues, family problems and questions about relationships and sexuality. There is also counselling on the issue of community work in lieu of military service¹⁸. Some youth work involving recreational activities can be described as educational. The Austrian ministry responsible for youth matters has also commissioned research to study new trends in youth culture. The objective of these studies was to gain more insight into new developments in order to apply the newly found knowledge in future concepts of youth work.

¹⁵ <http://www.jugend.bmsg.gv.at>

¹⁶ 4. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2003b)

¹⁷ 4. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2003b)

¹⁸ 4. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2003b)

6.2 Estonia

Youth work in Estonia is generally understood as involving the social, cultural and health education of young people to promote their mental and physical development¹⁹. The objective of youth work is to create conditions that will facilitate young people's their development and enable them to be active outside their families, formal education and work, to support them in their socialisation process and promote their development towards becoming well-coping members of society.

The concept and development plan of youth work in Estonia are the basis for specific action plans in eight subdivisions of youth work, involving horizontal themes of integration and criminal prevention. These eight important subdivisions are:

- special youth work concentrating on young people living in risk circumstances and/ or exhibiting problematic behaviour;
- youth hobby education activities outside formal education;
- youth information;
- youth counseling;
- youth work training (existence, availability and quality of the possibilities for the acquisition and development of the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for quality youth work and its successful performance);
- recreational activities for young people (mainly spare time activities and camps);
- work education for young people which aims to increase youth employment readiness;
- international youth work.

All these youth work activities are targeted to a rather broad age group because the Youth Work Act defines the target group between 7 and 26 years of age. But depending on their possibilities to participate in social life, different target groups are defined in the course of project and programme planning, for instance disadvantaged groups based either on geographic, economic, linguistic, social or health aspects.

The range of people who can be considered as youth workers is rather broad as well, because the status of youth workers in Estonia is somewhat obscure, and there is no coherent understanding of who is a youth worker and who is not. At the moment there is a debate about the professional standards of youth workers in Estonia. Nevertheless, most youth work in youth associations is performed by volunteers.

¹⁹ Conception of Estonian Youth Work (2001)

Many youth work activities are carried out by youngsters themselves or with their help. According to the Estonian non-profit associations register, there are approximately 150 youth associations and a dozen youth workers' associations in Estonia. Youth associations are engaged in one or several fields of youth work, depending on the decisions of their members, because the objectives and activities of youth associations are established by joint decisions of members. Youth associations may operate a separate office, a youth work agency (e.g. a youth centre, youth camp, etc.) or a youth club.

In recent years growing attention has been paid to developments at local level, for instance structures and programmes to support youth participation and open youth centres. Several Estonian traditional forms of youth work such as youth summer camps and hobby education schools (concentrating on music, art, dance etc.) are currently undergoing a renewal process in order to better fulfill the changing needs of young people.

6.3 Germany

Youth work in Germany is widely understood as a sector of non-formal education and support focussed on autonomy, participation and integration. Political responsibility for this lies primarily with the local authorities. Responsibility is assumed by larger political entities (state or federal government) only when the work extends beyond local or state level²⁰. Youth work at local level reflects different values and a wide range of content, methods and forms of work. There is thus no uniform type of local youth work. Rather, this pluralism is the result of the varying needs of young people in individual places. Suitable services are offered by voluntary youth associations or welfare and religious associations. However, the public youth welfare departments also offer services in the field of leisure activities for young people and run youth centres for young people.

The main focuses of youth work include various aspects distinguished by their individual services²¹. These are in particular:

- Out-of-school youth education supplementing the family, school and labour market with: general education, political education, social education, cultural education and natural history, ecological and technical education
- Youth work in sports, play and social life
- Youth work related to the labour market, school and the family
- International youth work
- Children and youth recreation and
- Youth counselling
- Job insertion related training, support and counselling

²⁰ Münder 2006

²¹ Thole 2000

Volunteering has always been crucial for youth work and youth associations. It is the basis of youth work within youth associations and the medium for the variety of offers provided to youngsters. Today some 90 supra-local youth associations exist, with the number of all youth associations estimated at approximately 400.

Youth associations organise their work mainly as group work although forms of open youth work are becoming more and more popular, as in recent time there has been a greater need for issue-related and part-time involvement in projects rather than for permanent commitment.

In contrast, the youth work provided by youth welfare departments is mostly organised as open youth work in youth clubs, youth projects, youth centres or youth houses. Actually the distinction between open youth work and social work for children and young people is gradually vanishing because of the need to address the special problems of disadvantaged groups of young people.

Youth work in Germany is nevertheless a highly professionalised and legally regulated sector. It is administrated by youth welfare departments at municipal level, and it benefits from the cooperation between professionals and volunteers.

The essential aim of non-formal education and support is to lead young people towards determining their future and taking responsibility for their actions. Therefore, participation by the child or young person in shaping youth services is not merely a procedural requirement, but also an essential element for the effectiveness of the service itself. Special importance is attached to the participation of young people in youth work. Young people participate in shaping its content and organising it. Their needs and interests are the focus of varied forms of work and organisation. The primary task of youth work is to make a contribution towards personal self-fulfilment and towards greater freedom and justice by developing and strengthening young people's will and ability to play a responsible part in state and social life.

6.4 Greece

Despite the existence of legal provisions regarding youth issues, there is no special official definition or legal framework for youth work in Greece. However, youth work does exist as a social practice; it constitutes an integral part of educational and welfare work and plays a significant role in supporting young people's safe and healthy transition to adult life. The range of activities described as youth work is extensive, and includes health, social support, counselling, education, training, personal development, etc. However, it seems that youth work is mainly related to leisure time activity – that is, artistic and cultural programmes, outdoor recreation, sports, etc. – providing a space for youthful experimentation and cultural development. Youth workers in Greece work primarily with young people aged between 15 and 25, but may in some cases extend this to those aged 13-15 or 25-30. Most youth services provide a mixture of 'open' youth work, intended for all young people in the area, and youth work targeting particular groups of young people, usually those who are disadvantaged or socially excluded.

Youth work in Greece involves a complex network of providers, community groups, non-governmental organisations and local authorities supported by a large number of adults working as full-time or part-time paid staff or as unpaid volunteers. However, the main state organisation responsible for the development and implementation of youth work policy in the country is the General Secretariat for Youth. All these different organisations share a more or less common set of youth work values. These include working with young people because they are young people, and not because they have been labelled or are considered deviant; starting with young people's view of the world; helping young people develop stronger relationships and collective identities; respecting and valuing difference; and promoting the voice of young people.

Youth work is of great social value. It connects with young people's leisure and recreational interests, complements formal educational processes, addresses contemporary social issues such as unemployment, and reflects the particular needs and tasks of young people as they move through the transitions of adolescence and young adulthood. Other types of youth work, both formal and informal, address issues relevant to young people such as drugs, sexual health or discrimination. In many instances, youth workers help young people to gain the skills to develop and lead sessions for other young people, an approach known as peer education. A non-exhaustive list of youth services in Greece includes career services, youth information, youth associations and participation education for young people with fewer opportunities, cultural education/cultural programmes, and social care services, etc.

6.5 Ireland

Young people in Ireland are chronologically defined as being over ten and under twenty-five years of age. In reality, youth work provision in Ireland is directed at the 12-18 age cohort which coincides with second level education. Youth work is defined in the Youth Work Act, 2001, as a 'planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal academic or vocational educational training; and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations' (Youth Work Act, Section 3). This definition reflects the view on the ground. For example, one major national youth organisation, Foróige (Development of Youth) reflects this ethos clearly in its mission statement, 'the purpose of the organisation is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society. This purpose challenges and supports young people to involve themselves in developing their character and talents'.

This philosophical orientation enables Irish youth work organisations to pursue a multi-faceted approach that combines personal development with social justice. Irish youth work organisations to an increasing extent are concerned with reaching out to vulnerable young people exposed to poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion, who are likely to underachieve at school, commit crime, engage in substance abuse and experience family difficulties. However, youth work in Ireland is viewed as a distinct activity from social work

and straddles the fields of education and personal social services. Its emphasis on socialisation and inclusion through personal and social development differentiates youth work from social work, which is primarily concerned with child protection and family welfare issues. Youth work is predominantly located within the third sector, being composed of national and voluntary youth organisations under the overall co-ordination of the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science and Vocational Education Committee (VECs). Social work is primarily located within the state sector, as part of the Health Service Executive (HSE), under the overall control of the Department of Health and Children.

Youth organisations operate a variety of programmes and activities, that cater for young people with divergent needs and interests including outdoor pursuits (hiking, water activities, etc.), project work, games and recreation, arts (drama, dance, etc.), citizenship and social action, summer projects and international exchanges.

Youth work in Ireland, consequently, has a distinctive ethos that defines it as a unique activity with its own clearly delimited mission aimed at the social and personal development of the youth population on the basis of voluntary participation. Its primary location within civil society in terms of service delivery reflects the historic influence of the principle of subsidiarity on Irish social policy formation and the limitations of the Irish Welfare State²².

There are a growing number of independently managed, community-based youth organisations in Ireland. These projects are usually not affiliated to one of the national youth organisations and are, according to the NYCI, mainly funded by government departments or agencies other than the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science.

There are considerable grounds for optimism in terms of the emergence of a legislative framework and the National Youth Work Development Plan (NYWDP). But implementation has proven to be slow, with a reluctance to match rhetoric with resources. Nonetheless, ineluctably the Irish State is being drawn into the sphere of youth work. As we have seen, funding is being provided by a diverse set of statutory sources. There is a real need for co-ordination and the new committee structure envisages providing just that – the sooner it is effectively implemented on the ground the better for the future of Irish youth work.

6.6 Italy

In Italy the issue of youth policy is developing very slowly, with only 0.24% of municipal funds allocated to policies regarding young people.

Interventions in favour of young people are often very weak because they are monothematic and, therefore, nearly always involve an element of welfarism rather than a political proposal for research and promotion of strong values or improved access to information, jobs, credit

²² Powell, 1992: 232-8

etc. In many Italian regions, the Catholic Church, with its parishes and broad range of training activities, has played a relevant role in these endeavours, but unfortunately there has been no opportunity for socialisation and participation activated and realised directly by public institutions that was not linked to adhesion to associations or organisations of some kind.

There are several reasons for this problem, but the most important one is that strong policy actions regarding young people have often been rejected. The passage to adult and professional life, together with education in favour of social participation, have been matters for the family, school, and associations.

In Italy there is no clear definition of youth work and, up to now, there has been no youth action plan where the expression “young people” was uniformly defined. All the laws dealing with this issue, both at national and regional levels, have different concepts of what “young people” are. Each of these laws considers different age ranges to identify the target, depending on the issue dealt with. Some define young people as persons between the ages of 15 and 29, others define them as being between 15 and 36, etc. The consequence is that, usually, youth work is considered to be the work carried out by young people of different ages, studying or not, young people who, for the first time, are approaching the labour market, and policies in favour of youth work are all initiatives to provide instruments necessary to cope with new job opportunities and with fast changes.

In Italy there is now a Ministry for Youth Policies and Sport, as in other European countries, and the goal of this ministry is to provide national youth policies through the Youth National Plan. A special economical fund has been instituted (Law n. 248, August 2006) to implement the actions of the National Youth Plan: the “Fund for Youth Policies”. It was created with the aim of promoting the rights of young people to cultural and vocational training, to foster their inclusion in social activities, and to implement actions needed to increase their opportunities of becoming house owners and getting credit to buy the goods and services they need. The budget is € 130 million for 2007; this money will be administrated the country’s regional and local authorities.

Another important aspect to underline is the increasing attention paid by the national government to the provision of education and continuous training for young people.

Over the last ten years, many projects have been realised with the participation of local administrations, local health organizations and the third sector. These projects have dealt with prevention, social assistance, and health promotion. Local authorities manage youth policies through Local Social Plans (Piani Sociali di Zona) involving the promotion of cultural and civic sense promotion, the development of autonomy and independence, and the prevention of social isolation and disease. Over these years, a great panorama of projects and interventions has been promoted. These projects stress cultural exchange, a new approach to the needs and expectations of young people. Most local authorities communes are now in charge of youth policy, indicating that there is an institutional will to take care of

young people through local planning instruments. A network of information and orientation points has been created including 107 “Informagiovani” and “Eurodesks” at regional level.

6.7 The Netherlands

During the last decades, youth work in the Netherlands remained largely in the shadow of youth care. Even though the target group of youth care - youth at risk - account for only about 15% of Dutch youth, it nevertheless receives the lion's share of political attention. It is not particularly surprising, that a similar picture can also be found within the Dutch sector of youth work.

What we will call *youth work in the narrow sense*, once again focuses on young people at risk. Prototypical examples for such a target group are young people with a migration background and young people whose families are in a precarious financial situation. The activities organised for and with them are often carried out by public providers and aim at intervention into the problematic situations. For two reasons, youth work in the narrow sense is especially to be found in urban areas: firstly, population density is higher there, making it possible to divide the target group into subgroups; secondly, the proportion of young people with a migration background is larger there. In Amsterdam, for example, young people with a migration background account for more than 50% of the young people living within the city boundaries²³.

Youth work in the broader sense, in contrast, usually aims at young people in general or at specific age groups, e.g. from 10-14 or from 14-18 years of age. It takes a more universalistic approach, offering a range of activities that are carried out by public, non-profit or for-profit providers. This kind of youth work can be found in cities, but is more common in villages and rural areas. The reason is that population density there is lower than in urban areas, so that it is counterproductive to subdivide the target group in any appreciable detail²⁴.

Together *youth work in the narrow* and in the *broader sense* cover a whole range of activities. Noorda and Veenbaas have suggested the following classification: (1) professional socio-cultural youth work, encompassing neighbourhood-based youth work and open youth work; (2) voluntary youth work, including youth work based on a particular ideology, interest organisations, organisations focussed on playtime activities, and organisations of migrants, (3) street youth work; (4) sports- and similar associations²⁵.

Finally it should be noted that the activities and structures of youth work as described above are likely to change in the near future. On 1 January 2007, the Social Support Act came into force in the Netherlands. One of its concerns is to strengthen the role of municipalities in the provision of social support. As a consequence, the Dutch landscape of youth work might

²³ Gemeente Amsterdam, 2006

²⁴ Veenbaas & Noorda, 2005

²⁵ Noorda & Veenbaas, 2005; Veenbaas & Noorda, 2005

become even more fragmented than it already is. On the other hand, a Ministry for Youth and Families was established on 22 February 2007. The existence of this might shift the topic of youth work up the political agenda, taking it out of the shadow of youth care. As both of these events are fairly recent, their mid- and long-term consequences still remain to be seen²⁶.

6.8 Norway

When it comes to young people and youth work, two aspects of the welfare state are of particular interest. The first is that the upbringing of children is not solely seen as parents' responsibility. Child welfare services have the right to intervene when children and young people are living under potentially harmful conditions. Secondly voluntary work is recognised by both the government and society at large as an important arena for young people to learn about participation and democratic processes. Voluntary youth work therefore receives substantial financial support from both national and local government.

Youth work in Norway includes activities conducted by both voluntary and public organisations. Voluntary organisations typically focus on sports, culture and recreational activities, but they can also work to improve living conditions for disadvantaged youths. Public organisations usually offer activities such as youth clubs, culture and music schools as well as child welfare and social services. Much of the youth work in Norway is conducted in the third sector, with volunteers acting as significant contributors. In many cases child welfare services cooperates with voluntary organisations so that young people experiencing some kind of problems can participate in an activity (for example sports) together with other young people.

The main action fields of youth work in Norway includes voluntary work, youth clubs and child welfare services. Voluntary work consists of a broad range of organisations that focus on sports, culture, politics, religion and recreational activities. In most cases these organisations are run by volunteers. Organisations of this type are normally open to all people who want to participate. Youth clubs are owned and financed by local government. Their purpose is to give all young people the opportunity of meeting other young people. The main focus of youth clubs is not activities but rather the importance of interaction between young people. Youth clubs will normally not accept participants over 18 years of age. Not all municipalities have youth clubs. Youth welfare services encompass all the work that is done by the local and regional child welfare services to help young people with drug-related problems, criminal inclinations or any other behaviour that will cause them harm. Young people older than 18 years will in most cases no longer receive support from the child welfare services.

²⁶ Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning, 2005

6.9 Romania

In Romania, the general framework of youth policies is aimed at the young generation as a whole, and only specific targeted policies address issues specific to different categories of young people: Roma youth, girls, students, institutionalised young people, drug consumers, HIV positive young people or young people from rural areas. General policy documents and current Romanian legislation takes the young people as a whole, addressing a group ranging in age from 15/16 up to 29 or 35, depending on the policy. "Young families" and non-governmental youth organisation are also a target of the general policy framework. As stated by the youth policy of the current Romanian government and also the Youth Law, the young generation of people ranging in age from 15/16 to 29 or 35 should be supported in their autonomy and independence. The general view is that the young generation represents a resource for the future, and this is why its initiatives, its values and attitudes should be known, its problems solved and itself protected and supported for a better future. But at the same time, young people are viewed as a vulnerable group that needs protection, promotion and support. There is a specific policy at national level, for example, to support young families in terms of access to housing or starting a business. There are policies specially designed to address the needs of special categories of young people: people with disabilities, members of minority groups, especially Roma. There is a national policy of encouraging employers to hire young people, especially young graduates; the national social security system offers unemployment benefits equivalent to 50% of the minimum wage to all high-school and university graduates. In conclusion, we can state that the target groups of the policies are both special groups of disadvantaged young people as well as this generation as a whole. The social participation of young people and, conversely, the social exclusion of some categories are considered important youth problems which must be addressed with measures fostering prevention, political participation of young people, inclusion, and integration. To solve these problems, to address the issues of exclusion or marginalisation or integration of young people, the state authorities at every level cooperate with NGOs on these matters, helping them develop programmes and strategies and applying together for funding in order to address these issues.

The dominant concepts in youth work are: participation, especially political and civic participation, leisure activities such as summer/winter schools, counselling for young people on different issues concerning education, jobs, travelling, associations, information, training and voluntary work. Programmes addressing issues such as reproductive health and HIV/Aids prevention have been designed and implemented by several NGOs in collaboration with hospitals, clinics, and medical cabinets at both public and private level. With regard to the institutions involved in youth work, in the last 4-5 years the role of non-governmental organisations in providing activities, programmes and projects has gradually been replaced by a better and broader involvement of national authorities both at national and regional/local level. A network of state institutions has been built under the coordination the National Authority for Youth, the central administrative body in charge of coordinating, designing and implementing youth policy in Romania.

6.10 Spain

To understand the meaning of youth work in the Spanish welfare state it is essential, on the one hand, to understand the focus on the family environment which characterises young peoples' transition processes to adulthood and which also permeates public policies. This is equivalent to saying that the Spanish welfare state has until now been based on solidarity, particularly cross-generational solidarity, which explains young people's delayed emancipation from their family. Issues relating to the socialisation of young people are normally solved within the family (private environment), while issues relating to young people's schooling and labour qualification are solved within the educational system (public environment). This explains why family-oriented southern European welfare state policies and youth work activities tend to be underdeveloped. Moreover, these welfare states are characterised by a polarised revenue policy essentially directed towards the elderly, where budgetary allocations intended for family and for youth policies, such as for the development of youth work, have been very scarce. This has considerably restricted the development of national programmes for youth work, restricting the development of these programmes to a local level. On the other hand, and as a consequence of this family orientation that characterises the southern European welfare states, welfare and socialisation assistance have to be provided within the private family environment. Policies intended to promote the third sector and non-formal education of young people have just recently been implemented. This has had certain negative repercussions on the shaping and introduction of the concept of youth work.

In the case of the southern European welfare states there is no official term or underlying concept of youth work. In contrast to the countries in northern Europe, in Spain this concept is difficult to apply when referring to youth policies, since there is an institutional and conceptual void on the subject, which is reflected in a variety of youth programmes. In many cases youth work is understood as labour education policies developed at a local level and in the third sector, policies intended to promote the labour insertion of disadvantaged young people. The meaning of youth work in Spain is therefore fundamentally exemplified in youth policies intended to counteract the social exclusion and marginalisation of young people.

The main goal of youth policies with regard to youth work is to strengthen the participation and integration of young people in different spheres of society as citizens with full rights. As clearly stated in the YOYO project (2004), current policy discourses in Europe promote participation as a key principle of civil society. However, if participation is not linked to social rights - with the exception of the universalistic transition system in the Scandinavian countries - it tends to increase self-responsibility and individualises social risks. In particular, active labour market policies tend to undermine and restrict individual autonomy. However, if active citizenship is the democratic formula for self-determination within flexible labour markets, individual motivation is a valuable key for policy. From this perspective it is necessary to point out that in the southern European countries, and specifically in Spain, the limited development by the welfare state of social policies referring to family and youth has had a certain negative repercussion on the formulation of policy strategies and on citizens

concerned with strengthening and legitimising the fields of action of youth work and youth workers.

The fields of action related to youth work in Spain have been channelled through an indirect and limited means by way of educational policies related to the formal education system. To a lesser degree, actions in non-formal education and in the vocational training sector have been developed by third-sector agents (associations, NGOs, etc.).

In Spain, the field of action of youth work is as limited in the hard policies as in the soft policies. This had negative repercussions on the development of the sector and on the development of voluntary work, as well as on the affirmation of young people's rights as citizens and, in particular, in those groups of young people with inadequate training and with labour integration or social participation problems.

7 Qualification of Youth Workers

The overview of pathways to qualification presented here was taken from the IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe; it has been revised and actualised by the partners.

In general we can state that all countries have a split system of education and training for youth workers that includes training for voluntary or employed youth workers, and professional studies at professional schools and universities. But youth work is – with the exception of Ireland – not an independent course of studies in any of the countries surveyed but rather included in careers like social pedagogy, social sciences, educational sciences, social work or social administration. In Ireland there is a Bachelor of Social Science in “Youth and Community Work”. The B.Soc.Sc. Youth and Community Work offers a degree and professional education to activists who are interested in the youth and community work area. In order to facilitate the ongoing community involvement of students, the course is designed on a flexible basis. Students attend college and do placements. The course is aimed at all youth and community activists but particularly at people from disadvantaged communities. Applications from minority groups are especially welcomed.

As already stated by the IARD study, higher levels of training seem to be related to a lesser degree of specialisation and are integrated in a broad professional context of social pedagogy, educational sciences or social sciences²⁷. The training for youth workers on a professional education level tends to be more specialised and oriented towards a practical education. In some countries there were developments towards the implementation of the European Credit Transfer System.

In all countries there is a short training system for voluntary workers or for those youth workers who start working as professionals in local authorities, as is the case in Italy. Only in very few cases are these trainings standardised or their certificates officially recognised.

27 IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001, part IV, page 134

Table 8: Qualification of Youth Workers²⁸

	Term ²⁹	Education and Training Pathways (length, practice/theory and type of qualification)		
		Voluntary Level	Professional Schools	Higher Education
Austria	SW	Further training for volunteers provided by youth organisations and associations and by youth departments of the state governments. Only a few lead to officially recognised certificates	Professional Schools: 5-year full-time course in 'social pedagogy', 10% practice Colleges for Social Pedagogy: 2 years (full-time), 3 years part-time, mainly theory with practical elements Further training courses: certificates not recognised by public bodies, 2 years	Academy for social work: Diploma in Social Work, 4 years, University: Diploma in Educational Sciences Both are courses with a mainly theoretical focus
Estonia	YW SP SW	Youth organisations offer their volunteers different training possibilities at professional level, but most of them are very chaotic and not organised regularly	Colleges for Social Pedagogy (3-year degree for youth workers & social pedagogues, 4-years degree for social workers) 40 - 50% practice Training courses	University degrees in social sciences (sociology, social policy, social work, etc.) 3+2 at BA and MA level.
Germany	SP SW YW	Youth organisations and associations offer a huge variety of further training for volunteers. Only a few lead to officially acknowledged certificates	1) Professional training for social assistants: 2-year school-based training 2) Professional education and training for social educators: 3 to 4 years (1 year of practice) 3) Professional Academy for the Social Sector: 3-year degree (theory and practice alternating)	1) University diploma in educational sciences with a specialisation in social pedagogy: 4 years plus 6 months of placement 2) Polytechnic diploma in social work/social pedagogy: 3 years plus 1 year of practice 3) Bachelor/Master of Social Work: 2 years/3 years plus practice. Admission to a master's programme requires a professional certificate. ECTS accreditation
Greece	SW CA SP	Voluntary non-governmental organisations and associations may offer training courses for volunteers in the youth sector but without any overall coordination in terms of administration, theory or approach. None of these training courses leads to an officially recognised qualification.	1) Public and private vocational training institutes (IEK) offer programmes on ecclesiastical and cultural training, early childhood social care/pedagogy, special education, organisation and management of children and youth camps, etc. Trainees who complete their studies obtain a Vocational Training Diploma (post secondary level +3). 2) Private vocational training centres (KEK) provide vocational training courses for employment in the areas of culture, sports and leisure. 3) Centres for adult education (KEE) offer a variety of training courses on: - Counselling and special education (25-50 hours). Trainees receive a Further Education Certificate. - Leisure time management (250 hours-1 year study). Access requires a high school degree. Trainees receive a Lifelong Learning Certificate. 4) The General Secretariat for Youth provides special training courses to the employees of youth information centres, twice a year (each training session has a duration of two days).	1) University degree in social administration, major in social work: 4 years of studies including 2 years of practice. 2) University degrees in social sciences (sociology, psychology, social policy, social anthropology, etc.), in educational sciences and pedagogy (primary education, early childhood education, special education, social pedagogy, etc.), not youth work specific: 4-year studies, plus, in some cases, some kind of practice depending on the degree. 3) Higher Technological Educational Institute degree in social work: practice-oriented 4-year degree preparing for youth and social services in the following areas: social welfare, special education, physical-psychological and mental health, social security, counselling and vocational guidance, delinquency prevention, community development, social services within the framework of the Hellenic Armed Forces and the Ministry of Public Order, etc.

²⁸ This table is based on the IARD Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe, January 2001; part IV 116-123

²⁹ YW = Youth Worker (including Youth Instructors, Leisure Time Leaders); CA = Cultural Animator; SP = Social Pedagogue, Social Educator; SW = Social Worker (including Social Cultural Workers); YP = Youth Policy Professional

Ireland	YW SW	Voluntary associations provide non-standardised training for volunteers (traditionally strong influence of Church declining)		<p>1) Master of Social Science / Higher Diploma in Youth and Community Work: 2-year post-graduate course</p> <p>2) Master of Social Work: 2-year full-time course with practical placements</p> <p>3) Bachelor of Social Science in Youth and Community Work: 3-year course with practical part, in some cases access without post-compulsory qualifications</p>
Italy	CA SE YP	The situation is influenced by a general lack of national youth policy and the late implementation of local youth policies with considerable local and regional differences		
		Voluntary organisations and cooperatives offer a broad range of short and longer training courses. In some cases, these can be considered as further training for those starting to work as professionals in local youth policies without having appropriate qualifications.	University Diploma in Educational Sciences with specialisation in social pedagogy: 3 years for the first level degree and two years of specialisation plus placement	
Netherlands	YW SW	Voluntary youth associations may offer training for volunteers without stringent coordination.	Social cultural worker, social pedagogical worker, social service worker, welfare worker: 2 to 4-year degrees organised in four levels (modules) provided at Regional Education Centres. 60% practice training	Higher Vocational Education (UPE) in cultural and social education (CMV): 4-year degree equivalent to polytechnic level; practice experience is integrated (until 1990 special 'youth work' programme in UPE)
Norway	SW SP YW CA	Most voluntary organisations offer a wide range of courses for volunteers. Few of them lead to official acknowledged certificates. In many cases, volunteers have to take courses arranged by the different organisations to be considered suitable for doing youth work.	Child and youth work: 2 years of education in public secondary school plus 2 years of practice. Employment in kindergartens, youth clubs	<p>Bachelor in child welfare or social work: 3-year course at University Colleges, one semester practice placement included. Employment in child welfare services, schools, social services</p> <p>Master in child welfare or social work: Bachelor plus 2 years of further education at University Colleges. Employment in child welfare services, schools, social services, research and development</p>
Romania	LTL CA YP	Some youth associations/organisations offer training sessions and short courses for their volunteers. Volunteer organisations offer their volunteers either free or paid courses on different topics, depending on the activity. Also, state institutions cooperate with youth NGOs to offer courses and training for young people on a range of issues. Certificates are offered at the end of these courses (trainings for trainers).		<p>There is no formal programme of qualification for youth workers.</p> <p>Youth workers get their qualifications by working in organisations, associations, by attending international seminars, workshops, courses, and thus achieving experience in the field of youth work.</p>
Spain	SW SE CA YP	Voluntary youth associations offer training for volunteers which may be coordinated by regional adult education centres (with certificate). These courses do not require a university degree. A graduate university degree on voluntary work and cooperation is available (it requires a university degree).	<p>Higher technician for social services / socio-cultural animators: 2-year course at regional professional schools with a balance between practice and theoretical instruction. It does not require a university degree.</p> <p>Graduate university degree to achieve the title of socio cultural animator (requires a university degree).</p>	Social work and social education: 3-year university degree leading to management positions in local youth services and to work with specially disadvantaged youth; 40% practice and 60% study .

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.

9 Results from the National Statistical Reviews

9.1 General overview about the reporting systems

The attempt to map the structure of youth work in terms of institutions, activities, youth workers, participants and funds allocated in the different European countries will be realised by means of a structured overview. This overview will reflect the global data available at each national level and comments on the data quality.

In Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Romania basic data describing publicly funded youth work is available. In these countries it is possible to state the total number of institutions, the number of institutions differentiated by type of youth work provided, the number of youth and sports associations and the ratio between public and non-public institutions. The activities of youth work institutions and the budgets are not traceable in all countries.

Nevertheless there are differences regarding the structure of this data:

For **Estonia** it is possible to give a detailed overview of the number of institutions and the type of youth work provided. However the figures for non-public institutions are not complete, nor are the figures for sports associations working with or for or young people. It is also not possible to draw a clear distinction between institutions and activities. There is no information on the budget spent for youth work. Some data about youth workers is available, but this information does not cover the non-public sector. Similarly numbers of participants are thus traceable for public institutions only.

In **Germany** a differentiation can be made as to types of institutions and responsible bodies. The total number of youth associations operating at local level is nevertheless not documented as they are attributed to the superior categories. It is also possible to list the number of activities provided by youth work institutions, but the categories are global. Information on the public budget spent for youth work at all administrative levels is available. The structure of reporting regarding youth workers is detailed, but data about volunteers is missing. Data about the participants excludes all participants in youth work that is not publicly funded.

In **Ireland**, where youth work is traditionally provided by youth associations, it is possible to map the number of institutions and local unions of youth services. The activities provided are not documented. The budget allocated for youth work can be deduced from the National Youth Work Development Plan and from the annual reports of youth work agencies. The only available data on youth workers is the total number of full-time paid staff. The ratio of paid youth workers to volunteers is also documented. Data about participants only refers to surveys compiling the most attractive activities of young people.

In **Norway** data about institutions, youth and sports associations are available. Some differentiations can be made in terms of the activities of youth associations, but this is not

possible for the public youth clubs. Public spending can be reported for voluntary child and youth organisations but not for all the expenses allocated at municipal level. Data about youth workers and volunteers is not available. The data about available on participants is the result of a survey, not of a continuous monitoring system.

In **Romania** the number of providers of youth work can be listed, but not the number of institutions. The activities realised with financial support from the National Authority for Youth are documented, as well as the budget provided by the National Authority for Youth for the support of youth work and the budget of the 'Youth in Action' Programme. The number of youth workers can be reported for the youth work listed, but only isolated data is available on volunteers. Data about participants is sometimes available but not systematically analysed.

In Austria and the Netherlands a rough landscape of youth work can be sketched. The data provided does not allow a selective classification of institutions as the surveys permit multiple answers or ask for a rating about the importance of youth work rather than or numbers of institutions. The same can also be stated for the activities. In **Austria** it is possible to identify the funds provided through the Federal Act on the Promotion of Youth. Data about youth workers and volunteers is available for those institutions that took part in the national survey. The data about participants traces the intensity of participation and participation motive rather than numbers. In the **Netherlands**, where responsibility for youth work lies fully in the hand of the municipalities, there is no data about the total budget available for youth work. The activities reported are the result of the opinion of stakeholders at municipal level as to what kind of youth work is important for them. Isolated data is available about youth workers and their main action fields. There is no data about participants: the available data refers to the target groups from the point of view of the municipalities offering the activities.

In Greece, Italy and Spain only individual sectors of youth work can be mapped. In these countries data about institutions is available only with regard to special national programmes. The same applies to the activities of youth work institutions. In **Greece** there is not even one survey specifically addressing youth work services in the country. The only traceable structures are those activated by European programmes and reporting systems. Data about youth workers and volunteers involved in youth work is missing, as well as data about participants. In **Italy** funds allocated through the National Financial Law for Youth-related Activities document the financial contingent for different youth work activities. However, little is known about the structures, the youth workers and the participants (besides sports activities). In **Spain** there is data about the budget allocated in the Interdepartmental Youth Plan, which represents funds spent to subsidise youth associations. The best accurately documented sector is that of the National Employment Institute activities towards job insertion and training for young people, for which scattered data is available. Data about volunteers is not available. Data on participants data is traceable only for the INEM' programme.

An analysis of the overview allows certain conclusions to be drawn regarding well or poorly documented sectors of youth work.

The sectors where data on youth work institutions, activities and budgets is generally reliable are:

- public youth work institutions;
- activities realised within the framework of national programmes and priorities of youth work promotion;
- public funds allocated for the implementations of youth plans, or for special national or European programmes;
- youth workers employed in public institutions or paid from public budgets and
- participants in publicly funded institutions or projects, or in sports activities.

The sectors of youth work that are not well represented in the national statistics are especially:

- youth work which is not financed from public budgets;
- activities provided by sports associations;
- youth work provided at local level;
- youth work activities at the edges of the national concept of youth work (i.e. realised by institutions that are not primarily youth-oriented, such as job centres, enterprises, police units etc.);
- funds allocated by non-public institutions;
- numbers of volunteers involved in youth work;
- participants in youth work, especially at local level and in associative youth work structures.

Table 10: Aspects of availability of data

	+	+/-	-
Institutions	Public youth work institutions	Youth associations Sports associations	Not publicly funded institutions
Activities	Activities realised within the framework of national programmes	Activities provided by youth associations Activities provided at municipal level	Activities of sports associations Youth work activities provided by institutions not restricted to youth work Youth work at local level
Funds	Public funds allocated for the implementation of youth plans or special programmes or; European funds	Public funds at municipal level	Non-public funds
Youth workers	Public youth workers Youth workers employed in special programmes	Qualification Employment structure Ratio of female and male youth workers	Volunteers
Participants	Participants in public institutions Participants in special programmes Participants in sports associations	Participants in voluntary organisations	Participants in youth groups and activities at local level

The following can be said about the quality of the data:

- There is no clear separation between providers and institutions of youth work;
- There are no fixed categories about youth work activities (categories vary from survey to survey);
- The age groups are not fixed;
- There is no clear separation between the categories: members of youth organisations, participants and volunteers;
- The aggregated data is not complete, so that the relative significance is weak.

It can therefore be argued that data on youth work at national level is not complete enough for a comprehensive picture of youth work to be drawn in all countries surveyed. The data available at national level focusses mostly on the implementation of national Youth Acts or programmes. None of the participating countries offers a comprehensive image of all actions undertaken within the scope of youth work, especially of those actions provided local by non-public associations - in particular youth associations or special youth groups within the framework of other associations - without financial support from public institutions. Furthermore, the completeness of the image of youth work also depends very much on the existence and contents of the respective national youth work concept and the allocation of responsibilities between administrative levels. In Germany for instance – in spite of the

existence of a compulsory annual data base – data on the important sector of initiatives for the insertion of young people into the labour market are not included in the statistics about youth work. In the Netherlands or Norway where responsibility for youth work lies in the hands of the municipalities there is no apparent need for nation-wide regulation or nation-wide documentation.

9.2 National data about youth work

The coming section will present an overview of the statistical information provided in each country. The main information regarding funds, youth work provided, institutions involved, youth workers and participants will be presented in a short description, with detailed information for each country listed in a table.

In **Austria** there is a budget of € 4.080.155 for the implementation of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Youth. 40% of this amount is spent to fund different associations; 41% is spent to fund different projects, and 18% for special requests within the scope of youth work. Additional funds are provided by state authorities. According to a non-representative youth report³⁰, most youth work providers (72%) are associations. Above all they offer recreational and pedagogic activities, cultural youth work, youth counselling, youth employment activities as well as peer information. There is an average of 12 paid youth workers per institution, although 5% of the open youth work institutions and 35% of the youth associations have no paid youth workers. The ratio of volunteers to paid staff is 3:1. Another national study for Austria states that 5% of girls and 4% of boys (14 to 30 years) visit a youth centre “very often”, 71% never do³¹.

³⁰ 5. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2006)

³¹ 4. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2003a)

Table 11: youth work in Austria

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Austria	<p>Non representative surveys</p> <p>Data from 2006 and from 2003 (n=155)</p>	<p>737 providers of youth work</p> <p>72% of the providers are associations</p> <p>No distinction between public and non-public or voluntary associations</p>	<p>88% of youth organisations offer recreational and pedagogic activities</p> <p>86% of youth organisations offer cultural youth work</p> <p>76% of youth work organisations offer youth counselling</p> <p>56% of youth work organisations provide opportunities to prepare for the labour market</p> <p>50% of youth work organisations provide youth information in the form of peer group information</p> <p>The main fields of activity of youth organisations are leisure time (71.4%), social matters (67%), education (40.9%) and cultural matters (35%). Other areas of activity – in the opinion of the youth organisations themselves – are representation of interests (20.7%), health matters (20.2%) and nature and environmental issues (14.8%).</p>	<p>Under the Federal Act of the Promotion of Youth, federal funding is provided for youth associations as well as for individual projects of youth work.</p> <p>In 2005, 27 youth associations received €1,649,673.75, and €1,687,616.97 were given to fund 252 different projects. An additional €742,864.90 was granted for special requests involving youth work.</p> <p>37% of the budget of youth associations in Austria comes from public authorities, 14.8% from membership fees, 12% from sponsoring and donations, 12% from a superior level of organisation. Another 19% of the budget of youth associations is self-obtained.</p> <p>Municipal and other funds are not accounted for here.</p>	<p>203 institutions employ 7300 youth workers. This is an average of 37 youth workers per institution. The average number of paid youth workers is 12, so that 1/3 of employees are paid.</p> <p>The percentage of paid youth workers in open youth work is higher than in youth associations (5% to 35% of associations have no paid youth workers).</p> <p>53% of youth associations have only paid youth workers.</p> <p>2/3 of the organisation employ up to ten youth workers. 12% of youth associations and 26% of open youth work organisations employ more than 10 youth workers.</p> <p>60% of youth associations have a high percentage (> 50%) of paid female youth workers.</p>	<p>Volunteers play an important role in extracurricular youth work.</p> <p>The ratio of volunteers to paid staff is 3:1.</p> <p>On average, there are 15 volunteers per organisation.</p> <p>71% of the female and 65% of the male voluntary youth workers are younger than 30 years.</p>	<p>5% of girls and 4% of boys (14 to 30 years) visit a youth centre "very often". 71% never do.</p> <p>3% of the young people interviewed are active in a youth association "very often". 76% never get involved with youth organisations.</p> <p>24% of the interviewed young people see a possibility to be active in a youth organisation and 22% in a youth centre.</p> <p>Around one third of those are already active.</p>

In **Estonia** there is no data available on the budget spent for youth work. Because of a lack of data the percentage between public and non-public organisations cannot be traced either. For the youth work organisations listed by the Estonian Youth Work Centre in the year 2006, we can differentiate between the types of activities provided. At 31%, extracurricular youth education accounts for the greatest part of available youth work facilities, followed by cultural youth work and youth camps, both at 15%, and open youth work and youth clubs at 14%. Only a very small number of youth work activities deal specially with youth employment (although 25% participate in youth education), youth information, youth counselling and sports. The public institutions listed have an average of 6 youth workers per youth work institution. The rate of professionalism in these institutions is high as nearly all youth workers have a professional education. Data about volunteers is not available. Youth education within the formal system plays an important role within the Estonian youth work system, as it involves 25% of all participants. Cultural youth work and extracurricular youth education form the main categories of youth work provided.

Table 12: Youth work in Estonia

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Estonia	Survey of the Estonian Youth Work Centre (2006)	973 institutions	31% extra-curricular youth education 15% cultural youth work 15% youth camps 14% youth centres 8% youth associations 2% youth counselling 2% youth sports 1.5% youth information 0.5% youth employment 56% of the activities are provided by public institutions, 43% by non-public associations, and 1% by semi-public organisations.	No data	5999 youth workers are employed in public institutions. 36% of these are involved in extracurricular youth education, 31% in cultural youth work, 26% in youth education. 4% are working in sports and only 1% in youth centres or youth counselling institutions. About 60% of youth workers work full time. There is no data about the ratio of female to male youth workers. 68% of youth workers have a professional school diploma, and 42% have a higher education.	No data	90108 registered participants 30% in cultural youth work, 38% in extracurricular youth education, 7% in sports and 25% in youth education.

In **Germany** data is available on the total public spending for youth work and on the federal budget for implementation of the Child and Youth Plan. In 2003 public spending amounts to € 1,387,141.000. The federal budget comprises € 111,114,000 €. 70% of this amount is spent to finance institutions, and 30% to finance targeted measures. 75% of the public budget for youth work is procured by the municipalities, 16% by the state authorities and 8% by the federal ministry. About € 13,300 youth work institutions were publicly funded in 2004. 37% of these institutions were public, 63% non-public. Most of them - 82% - were youth centres or youth clubs. 44% of the activities provided by these institutions involved child and youth recreation, 35% extracurricular youth education, 18% voluntary social services and 4% international youth work. Youth associations play an important role in the provision of extracurricular youth education offers. 50% of all activities are realised by youth initiatives, youth groups and youth associations. There were 53,213 registered youth workers in 2002, the majority of them (53%) were employed in youth centres or clubs. 58% of youth workers are female and 42% male. 67% of youth workers are employed in non-public institutions. There is an average of 3 youth workers per institution. The rate of professionalism is high, with only 11% of the staff having no formal qualification. There is no data at national level about the number of volunteers involved in youth work. A study done for the state of North-Rhine-Westphalia reports a ratio of 1:6 between employed staff and volunteers. Around 3.5 million young people participate in youth work. 88% of them attend activities provided by non-public institutions. 59% of the participants are male, 41% female. Sports play an important part in youth work in Germany. There are 86,000 youth sports units nation-wide. 4.3 million young people are involved in youth sports activities. In 2006 investment in youth sports amounted to € 1,221,311,000.

Table 13: Youth work in Germany

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Germany	<p>Representative report for publicly funded youth work. Data from 2002, 2004 and for sports from 2006</p> <p>Study of the University of Dortmund in 2004</p>	<p>17,372 institutions providing youth work. Among them:</p> <p>82% youth centres/clubs</p> <p>6% youth cultural education centres</p> <p>10% recreational or vacation services</p> <p>5% youth social work institutions</p> <p>37% are public, 63% non-public institutions</p> <p>86,000 youth sports units</p>	<p>45,937 child and youth recreational activities (44%)</p> <p>36,955 activities involving extracurricular youth education (35%)</p> <p>3,677 activities involving international youth work (4%)</p> <p>18,280 activities involving voluntary social services (18%)</p> <p>82% of the activities realised are put into practice by non-public associations.</p> <p>50% of the extracurricular youth education activities on offer are realised by youth initiatives, youth groups and youth associations.</p> <p>The ratio of youth institutions per 100,000 children aged 6 to 18 is 164.</p>	<p>The total amount of public spending for youth work in 2003 was €1,387,141,000.</p> <p>€1,221,311,000 was spent in 2006 for youth sports activities.</p> <p>70% of the public budget was spent to finance institutions 30% to finance targeted measures.</p> <p>75% of the public budget for youth work is procured by the municipalities, 16% by the federal states and 8% by the federal ministry.</p> <p>7% of the total public budget for child and youth assistance was spent for youth work, 27% for child care services and 54% for financing the day care centres.</p> <p>The public budget spent for youth work is equivalent to €150 per single young person aged from 12 to 21 years.</p> <p>The budget for the formal education system (schools) is €47,627,000,000.</p>	<p>53213 registered youth workers:</p> <p>53% employed in youth centres or clubs</p> <p>16% in recreational or vacation services</p> <p>15% in youth education and meeting centres</p> <p>12% in youth social work institutions</p> <p>2% in youth counselling institutions</p> <p>58% of youth workers are female, 42% male. The highest percentage of female youth workers can be found in youth counselling institutions (67%).</p> <p>67% of youth workers are employed in non-public institutions</p> <p>34% of youth workers on average have a university degree, 17% a professional school diploma, 1% other forms of qualification and 11% no formal qualification. The highest rate of employees with a university degree – 65% - is in youth counselling services. Most non-qualified employees – 25% - work in the recreational and vacation services area.</p> <p>49% of youth workers work full-time, 34% part-time, and for 17% the work is a spare-time job.</p>	<p>No representative data available about the volunteers</p> <p>In NRW it is reported that youth clubs employed 3770 youth workers and 25,500 volunteers.</p>	<p>Around 3.5 million children and young people participate in youth work, 4.3 million in youth sports.</p> <p>59% are male, 41% female. The highest rate of female participants is in the youth counselling services. Most male participants - 63% - are involved in sports activities.</p> <p>88% of youth work participants can be found in non-public associations.</p> <p>Ratios of participants per 10,000 children and young people (0 to 27 years):</p> <p>826 for youth recreation services</p> <p>587 for extracurricular youth educations services</p> <p>53 for international youth work and</p> <p>4,913 for youth sports</p> <p>267,207 young people participated in special activities for orientation and vocational training.</p>

In **Greece** the available data at national level is too scarce to draw a quantitative picture. There are about 270 NGOs active in child and youth work. However, the actual number may be larger since many NGO's offer certain services to children and young people even though they do not specialise in youth work. There are 50 youth information centres. In 2005, they

were funded with € 1,066,100 and an estimated 100,000 young people used them. The estimated budget of the General Secretariat for Youth is € 16,000,000.

Table 14: Youth work in Greece

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Greece	<p>European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy database</p> <p>Report from youth information centres collected by the General Secretariat for Youth</p> <p>Study 'Youth in Greece Today' (2005), conducted by the Institute of Applied Communications, University of Athens, for the General Secretariat for Youth</p>	<p>No data</p> <p>Approximately 270 NGOs active in youth work</p> <p>50 youth information centres</p>	No data	<p>Estimated budget of the General Secretariat for Youth in 2006: € 16.000.000</p> <p>National investment for the operation of the youth programme: approximately €1,462,961</p> <p>€1,066,100 inverted in youth information in 2005 from national and regional budgets</p>	No data	<p>40% of young people participate in organisations.</p> <p>2.5% of them are volunteers in sports clubs, 2.3% in cultural groups. 1% answered that they do voluntarism in youth clubs.</p>	An estimated 100,000 young people used the youth information centres in 2005.

Similarly to Greece, in **Italy** the data about youth work structures is scarce and the only well documented sector is the budget for the implementation of the National Financial Law for Youth. At national level we can state that there are 800 youth information centres and 2,400 consultancy centres for young people in local health centres funded from public budgets. The national budget allocates € 1,031,420,000 for youth-related activities. 78% of this amount is designated for international youth work, 10% for youth apprenticeships, 5% for youth migration services, 2.9% for youth education institutions and youth work in universities. Only a small part of the budget, i.e. 0.4%, is allocated to youth associations. The rate of participation in groups or civil society organisations is 13.4%³². 39% of young peoples between 14 to 24 years practice sports regularly.

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Table 15: Youth work in Italy

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Italy	Report from the Italian Institute of Statistical Research (Data from 2006)	Data does not cover all institutions providing youth work 800 youth information centres 2400 youth consultancy centres in local health centres	No data	The National Financial Law allots for Youth-related Activities a budget of € 1,031,420,000: 0.01% for youth information 2.9% for youth work in universities 77.6% for international youth work 0.5% for youth work in sports 0.1% for rights education 2.9% for youth education institutions 0.4% for youth associations 1% for youth entrepreneurship in agriculture 10% for youth apprenticeships 5% for youth migration services	No data	22% of all volunteers engaged in all type of voluntary organisations are up to 29 years. 45,175 young people participated in a voluntary social service in 2005. 76% were female, 24% male.	39.1% of young people aged between 14 and 24 years practise sports regularly.

In **Ireland** where the involvement of the state in youth policy is still developing, a budget of € 37,000,00 € was allocated to implement the Youth Work Act and the National Youth Work Development Plan in the years 2003 till 2007. This represents an annual budget of about € 7,400,000. Together the two greatest youth work associations Youth Work Ireland and Foróige operate 920 youth clubs, 40 youth information centres and various projects. There are also 85 centres for the provision of training, workplace skills and employment counselling. The National Youth Council of Ireland has registered 50 youth organisations. These organisations employ 1,000 youth workers as full-time staff. Furthermore there are 40,000 volunteers involved as main educators, so that the ratio of volunteers to staff is 50:1. 32% of young people between the ages of 12-18 participate in one ore more community or charity group, including: youth clubs, choir/folk groups, voluntary work, scouts/guides. The participation rate in rural areas is higher that in urban areas.

Table 16: Youth work in Ireland

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Ireland	National Children's Office Survey (2005)	<p>85 centres for the provision of training, workplace skills and employment counselling</p> <p>Youth work Ireland operates 500 youth clubs, 40 youth information centres and 100 projects. There are 21 local youth services.</p> <p>Foróige operates 420 youth clubs.</p> <p>51 youth organisations are registered with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).</p>	No data	<p>€37,000,000 have been budgeted for 2003 till 2007 to implement the Youth Work Act and the National Youth Work Development Plan.</p> <p>Till now only €12,000,000 has been allocated.</p>	In the 50 youth associations there were 1,000 persons as full-time paid staff.	<p>In the 50 youth organisations there were 40,000 adult youth leaders involved as the main educators.</p> <p>In community-based youth organisations the ratio of volunteers to staff is 50:1.</p>	<p>32% of young people between the ages of 12-18 participate in one or more community or charity group, including youth clubs, choir/folk groups, voluntary work, scouts/guides.</p> <p>59% of young people favour youth clubs/groups (68% male / 53% female),</p> <p>26% choir/folk groups (38% female / 9% male),</p> <p>11% voluntary work (12% female / 9% male), and</p> <p>10% scouts/guides (11% male / 10% female).</p> <p>Participation levels fall as adolescence progresses, from 36% of 12-year-old females, to 27% of 17-year-olds and 23% of 18-year-olds.</p> <p>While 88% of males participate in youth clubs and groups at the age of 12, only 57% do so at the age of 18 years.</p> <p>56% of 12-year-old females participate in a choir/folk group, while 33% do so at the age of 18 years.</p> <p>The participation rate in groups in rural areas is 29%, in urban areas the rate is 21%.</p>

In the **Netherlands** there is no available data about youth work at national level, as responsibility for youth work is in the hands of the municipalities. Thus only data regarding additional programmes is documented. The national Dutch Youth Group has 6,487 sections of youth associations. Important facilities for youth work for the municipalities are above all youth centres, meeting places for young people, youth information points and cultural meeting places. In the various provinces of the Netherlands there were 1,705 registered youth workers in 2003. There is no data about the number of volunteers engaged in youth work. The available data results from a survey on voluntarism in general. There is also no data about the participants in youth work. Municipal authorities see the main target group of youth work - 54% - as being young people from 12 to 16 years of age.

Table 17: Youth work in Netherlands

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Netherlands	<p>Survey of Dutch Municipalities (2003)</p> <p>Study on institutions of creative education (2003)</p> <p>Survey of the Dutch Youth Group (2002)</p>	<p>No representative data about all institutions</p> <p>6,487 sections of youth associations in 2002 as members of the national Dutch Youth Group</p> <p>Important facilities of youth work are for the municipalities:</p> <p>youth centres (85%), meeting places for young people (71%), information points for young people (42%), cultural meeting places (19%), pop centres (12%), others (12%)</p>	<p>No representative data about all youth work activities</p> <p>Important forms of youth work are for the municipalities:</p> <p>youth work in connection with accommodation (76%), ambulant youth work or youth work involving a meeting point (72%), youth participation (58%), Network 12+ (45%), neighbourhood-oriented youth work (24%), other type of youth work (4%)</p>	<p>No data about the total public budget spent for youth work.</p>	<p>1,705 youth workers were registered in the provinces of the Netherlands in 2003.</p> <p>Among them the largest groups were youth workers (55%), socio-cultural workers (11%), and youth workers for teenagers (8%).</p>	<p>40% of the 18- to 24-year-old males and 43% of the females do volunteering.</p> <p>Among the male group 20% are volunteers in sports associations and 10% in youth work. Other associations like religious or hobby associations reach less than 5%.</p> <p>Among the female volunteers 15% are engaged in sports associations, 12% in youth associations and 8% in religious associations.</p>	<p>7% of the municipalities target 12- to 18-year-olds,</p> <p>54% 12- to 16-year-olds,</p> <p>15% 16- to 18-year-olds,</p> <p>23% other age groups</p>

In **Norway** the main responsibility for funding and providing public youth work lies with the municipalities, thus public spending at national level refers to the amount allocated for youth and sports associations. 116 national youth associations have received the amount of €26 million. € 22 million have been allocated to 49 sports associations. There are 450 registered youth clubs in Norway and 19 youth information centres. Beside these two action fields, areas where public organisations provide youth work are cultural activities, child welfare, social services, outreach services and career guidance. Youth sports play an important role too, as 50% of the activities provided by voluntary organisations refer to these activities. There is no data about the number of employees in youth work. The information available shows that in 70% of the youth clubs the sum of part-time and full-time employees adds up to two or less full time positions. Among youth club leaders the proportion of youth workers with a university degree is at 81%. Data about volunteers in youth work is not available. There are 700,000 volunteers acting in sports organisations. 61% of all young people aged from 13-19 years participate at least in one voluntary organisation. The rate for males - 64% - is higher than the rate for females (58%). About 14% of young people participate in cultural and recreational youth work, 9% in youth clubs.

Table 18: Youth work in Norway

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Norway	Survey Young in Norway (2002) (N=11298) Norwegian Association of Youth Clubs survey (2003) Frifond The Distribution Committee Statistics Norway	450 youth clubs 442 child welfare services 19 youth information centres 116 national child and youth organisations with 13,000 local branches and 2,750 independent organisations 49 sports organisations receiving funds for child and youth work with 16801 local branches	No representative data about all youth work activities 31,900 traceable activities of youth work in 2005. Among them 15% activities of cultural youth work 34% youth associations and groups 50% youth sports	€22,000,000 in 2007 for youth sports €26,000,000 in 2006 for child and youth organisations Total public spending for child welfare services € 540,000,000 Child and youth organisations (including sports) receive around 0.05% of the state budget.	Little data available, especially for youth workers in public organisations. In 70% of the youth clubs the sum of part-time and full-time employees adds up to two or less full-time positions.	700,000 volunteers in sports organisations. Their contribution adds up to about 24,000 full-time jobs.	61% of all 13- to 19-year-olds participate at least in one voluntary organisation (64% males, 58% of females). 14% participate in cultural youth work (17% of females, 11% of males). 14% participate in recreational youth work (22% of males, 10% of females). 9% participate in youth clubs. 7% participate in political, humanitarian and environment protection organisations (8% of males and females). 50% of 13-year-olds participate in sports (55% male, 45% female). The number declines as children get older: for 19-year-olds it is 26% (32% of males and 21% of females).

In **Romania** there are 455 youth associations operating and 43 county youth departments. The departments are responsible for the implementation of the National Authority for Youth policy. They distribute the financial resources at local level. They also operate 65 summer camps and 26 youth hostels. In 2007 an amount of € 2,630,500 was allocated to finance youth clubs and individual programmes. Approximately 40% of the budget was used to fund youth clubs. 97,823 participants were involved in the projects financed with this budget. There is no analytical data about the type of youth work provided with the whole budget but in 2007 we can trace that emphasis is given to cultural youth education, courses and training and to youth information. According to a study done in 2002, there were 160 youth workers operating in Romania. 96 of them were paid youth workers, and there were 64 volunteers, so that the ratio between paid youth workers and volunteers is 1.5:1. 36% of them were employed in the public sector, 59% in the non-governmental sector, and 11% in students organisations. 70% of the staff of youth associations are volunteers. According to a study done in 2005, 9% of Romanian young people are members in associations, particularly in sports, political and professional (students) organisations.

Table 19: Youth work in Romania

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Romania	<p>Online data base of non-governmental associations from the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives (2007)</p> <p>Background paper from the National Agency for Supporting Young People's Initiatives (2002)</p> <p>Study on Youth from the NASYPI (2005)</p> <p>The Budget of the Prime-Minister's Office in 2006</p>	<p>455 non-governmental youth organisations active in the field of youth work</p> <p>43 county youth departments providing 65 camps and 26 youth hostels nation wide</p>	<p>No representative data about all youth work activities</p> <p>723 project supporting youth clubs and youth actions in 2006</p> <p>5% (35) of those projects were provided nationwide. 66% were realised by youth associations.</p> <p>95% (688) of the projects were realised at local level. 68% were realised by non-governmental associations.</p> <p>In 2005, 55 projects were implemented through the "Youth in Action" programme.</p> <p>225 youth activities were funded between January and April 2007. Among them:</p> <p>4% camps; 20% information/campaigns; 22% courses/trainings; 8% round tables/meetings; 23% art activities; 5% seminars; 4% tourism/ecology; 10% contest/ sports; 1% volunteering</p>	<p>In 2006, the budget allocated to youth work at national level was € 1,946,000.</p> <p>The budget for the "Youth in Action" programmes totalled € 2,960,296 in 2007.</p>	<p>160 youth workers</p> <p>36% of them were employed in the public sector, 59% in the non-governmental sector, and 11% in students organisations.</p> <p>All employees of the public sector were full-time employees. 30% of the youth workers in associations were full-time employees.</p> <p>60% were female, 40% male youth workers.</p>	<p>70% of the youth workers in associations are volunteers.</p>	<p>9% of young people aged between 14-29 years are members of a social, economic or political association.</p> <p>35% are members of sports clubs,</p> <p>29% are members of political youth organisations,</p> <p>27% are members of students or pupils groups</p> <p>17% are members of cultural organisations.</p> <p>23610 young people participated in activities in 31 youth centres in 2006. This is an average of 760 young people per club.</p> <p>In 2006, 14,000 young people benefited from the 200 projects funded by the National Authority for Youth.</p> <p>130,000 young people participated in camps in 2006.</p>

In **Spain** the Interdepartmental Youth Plan (2005-2008) allocates € 2,341,000 for different actions related to youth work (52% for training and 39% for employment and housing). In addition to these funds there is also a small budget for employment initiatives involving young people (the INEM programme: € 494,910) and a budget of € 2,957,570 €. To subsidise 146 youth associations in 2006. The highest amount was thus clearly allocated to activities within the Youth in Action programme, which received € 520million between 2000 and 2006. There little data available about youth work institutions. 3000 youth information services are traceable as well as 45 promotion units for job insertion and 159 learning centres. Data about youth workers is missing: only for the youth information centres can some information be found. 50% of the centres have a single worker, 23% have two of them. As the evolution of the YIS has been closely related to volunteers activities of associations it can be argued that about 30% of the centres still have volunteers collaborating. 59% of the staff of the YIS has a higher education degree. In general, there is no data about participants in youth work: for the INEM programme the number of participants known to be 60,837.

Table 20: Youth work in Spain

	Data base	Institutions	Activities	Funds	Youth workers	Volunteers	Participants
Spain	<p>Association Census of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy</p> <p>Spanish Youth Council Associations Census</p> <p>Data from the National Employment Institute</p> <p>Injuve Report on Youth Information Services 2006</p>	<p>146 subsidised youth associations in 2006</p> <p>45 Promotion and Development Units for job insertion and 159 learning centres in 2005</p> <p>3000 youth information services</p>	<p>No data about all youth work activities</p> <p>INEM governmental programme for job insertion and training:</p> <p>873 training workshops; 159 learning centres; 1,423 employment workshops</p>	<p>The Interdepartmental Youth Plan (2005-2008) allocates € 2,341,000 for different actions related to youth work (52% for training and 39% for employment and housing).</p> <p>In 2006 the 146 youth associations were subsidised with €2,957,570.</p> <p>The INEM programme budget amounts to €494,910.</p> <p>€520 million has been allocated for the `Youth in Action` programme from 2000 till 2006.</p>	<p>14,060 educational directors and support personnel carrying out the job insertion and training workshops of the INEM Programme.</p> <p>50% of the youth education centres have one single worker, 23% have two, 13% have four or more and 8% three workers.</p> <p>31% of the personnel in the YIS are temporary workers, 21% have full-time contracts, 16% are civil servants usually in urban or surrounding areas.</p> <p>31% of the professionals in the YIS have a 4-year higher education degree, 29% a 3-year higher education degree, 20% secondary school education, 3% elementary school education and 18% have other education levels.</p>	<p>1/3 of the YIS collaborate with volunteer workers.</p> <p>4% of YIS staff are volunteers.</p>	<p>In 2005 there were 60,837 young people in the INEM programme.</p>

9.3 Comparative overview

Because the data is not complete, the results of the present study do not allow for a comprehensive comparison of youth work in the various countries of the study. Any attempt in this direction would lead to distortions.

The following can be said of the data on youth activities:

- the best documented sectors are those of publicly supported youth work and of activities implemented by public providers
- because participation in the investigations was on a voluntary basis, only partial sectors could be documented, even in the case of publicly funded measures (Austria, the Netherlands);

- in southern European countries (Greece, Italy, Spain), only data gathered at European level on youth information and on the implementation of the 'Youth in Action' programme was documented at national level; and
- the structures and services provided by youth associations are not sufficiently visible (Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Norway). In some countries, however, the share of youth work provided by non-public associations can be documented.

In summary, the following can be said about the data on the money and time invested in youth activities:

- in nearly all the countries surveyed, only amounts provided by the ministries responsible for youth affairs or by European institutions were identifiable;
- the budgets contributed by other sources – e.g. employment and social affairs, health or sport – were not available for the present study;
- in none of the countries surveyed, with the exception of Germany, was there any information available at national level on funds invested at state or local level;
- the time and money invested by youth organisations and other non-public associations cannot be documented.

The following can be said regarding data on the number of people employed:

- some countries (Greece, Italy, Norway) have no aggregated data on youth workers at national level;
- the only well documented figure is the number of youth workers employed in public institution and paid with public funds;
- information is available on the qualifications of youth workers and their employment relationships in those cases where basic data is collected on numbers of youth workers;
- the number of youth work volunteers cannot be directly documented in any of the countries of the survey. If information is available at all, it concerns data derived from studies on volunteer work and data on the ratio between paid and unpaid youth workers.

The following can be said with regard to the young people participating in youth work activities:

- data on participants in institutional activities is available for only a few of the countries surveyed (Estonia, Germany, Romania);

- in some countries data on participants is generated from youth polls and surveys at national level (Austria, Ireland, Norway);
- there is no data available at national level in Italy, Greece or the Netherlands.

Taking in consideration the diversity of national data about youth work and the difficulties that have to be faced when reporting at European level has to be comparative, the indicators shown below are recommended as the starting point for a future reporting structure. They are based on statistics available from EUROSTAT as well as on data from the Eurobarometer 2007 Survey on Youth.

Only a limited amount of quantitative data from the present study can be added to this data. At national level, the available data refers to the national public spending contributed by ministries targeting youth issues. This data can be related to total public spending, but it must be kept in mind that funds allocated by other ministries are not traceable. In addition, in most countries state and municipal authorities contribute to a high degree to the financing of youth work. To some extent it is also possible to map the percentage of associations performing youth work and the ratio of paid youth workers to volunteers.

Furthermore, we have found interesting categories such as

- the number of youth associations organised at national level;
- the ratio of full-time employed youth workers and young people;
- the proportion of participants in youth work per 10,000 or 100,000 children and young people;
- the average number of youth workers per institution;
- and finally the amount spent for each participating child or young person.

These categories are nevertheless no more than individual examples that cannot be recommended, as the basic information necessary to calculate them is not available in most of the surveyed countries. They may, however, be helpful for a future reporting system.

As this table shows, aggregatable data in individual areas is also incomplete. The table should therefore be seen as nothing more than an initial and incomplete attempt at classification.

Table 21: Dimensions of youth work³³

	Number of 13- to 30-year-olds ³⁴	Percentage of young people in relation to total population ³⁵	Percentage of non-organised young people ³⁶	Percentage of young people participating in youth organisations ³⁷	National annual budget for youth work in €	Additional public (municipal) funds	Percentage of national budget for youth policy in relation to total public spending ³⁸	Percentage of associations performing youth work	Ratio of youth workers to volunteers
Austria	1,805,490	22,5	56.5	9.0	4,080,155 ³⁹	Yes	0,003	72	1:3
Estonia	354,071	25,8	83.5	19.6	No data	No data	No data	43	No data
Germany	16,552,700	20,3	53.7	4.0	111,114,000 ⁴⁰	1,276,027,000	0,011	63	1:6 ⁴¹
Greece	2,828,179	25,9	89.2	7.0	16,529,061 ⁴²	Yes	0,019	No data	No data
Ireland	1,113,759	28,9	71.8	6.5	7,400,000 ⁴³	No data	0,012	No data	1:50 youth organisations 1:6 projects
Italy	12,647,395	22,2	86.4	5.3	130,000,000 ⁴⁴	Yes	0,018	No data	No data
The Netherlands	3,663,679	22,9	57.9	4.0	No data	Yes	No data	No data	No data
Norway	1,042,141	23,1	39.0 ⁴⁵	9.0 ⁴⁶	48,000,000 ⁴⁷	Yes	0,044	No data	No data
Romania	6,089,468	28,1	92.5	25.8	2,630,500 ⁴⁸	Yes	0,008	65	1,5:1 public youth work 3:1 associations
Spain	10,675,605	26,3	88.0	8.3	4,003,989 ⁴⁹	Yes	0,001	No data	No data

³³ this list contains available data and is not complete enough to draw a representative national overview

³⁴ Eurostat data

³⁵ Eurostat data calculated

³⁶ Flash Eurobarometer Nr. 202 – youth survey , June 2007, p. 91

³⁷ Flash Eurobarometer Nr. 202 – youth survey , June 2007, p. 93

³⁸ calculation on the basis of Eurostat data for the respective annual budget

³⁹ federal fund s for youth associations and projects and special requests in 2005

⁴⁰ budget in 2003 12. Kinder- und Jugendbericht des Bundes, 2005 p. 240

⁴¹ data from the federal State of North-Rhine-Westfalia, Ministerium für Generationen, Familie, Frauen und Integration des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Entwicklungen der Offenen Kinder- und Jugendarbeit, 2006, p. 34

⁴² This budget concerns only: the annual budget of the General Secretariat for Youth (2006), the national investment for the operation of the Youth Programme (2005) and the budget invested in the field of youth information (2005). It is certain that the actual number of the national annual budget for Youth Work should be higher, if investments by other Ministries on youth issues – such as youth employment, youth entrepreneurship, youth social care, etc. – are considered (e.g. Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, etc.)

⁴³ annual rate calculated from the budget of the Youth Development Plan 2003-2007

⁴⁴ budget of the 'Fund for Youth Policies' (Law nr. 248) administrated by the Ministry for Youth Policies and Sports in 2007

⁴⁵ data from the Study „Young in Norway“ (Krange & Strandbu 2004)

⁴⁶ data from the study “Young in Norway” (Odegard 2007)

⁴⁷ funds for the Confederation of sports for child and youth sports and for all non-sports child and youth organisations in 2006

⁴⁸ budget allocated in 2007 for the activities of the NAY

⁴⁹ calculated from the sums of the Interdepartmental Youth Plan (2005-2008), the INEM Programme and the subsidisation of youth associations

10 Results from the Local Statistical Surveys

As youth work is provided at local level the concept of the study envisaged a survey of youth work structures in four municipalities in every country. Thus the locally collected data should allow to balance the available data at national level.

10.1 Austria

Data base:

The survey in Austria was conducted in four districts:

- Dornbirn, Vorarlberg; mid-sized city; in the western Austria;
- Kirchdorf an der Krems, Upper Austria; a rural area of central Austria with small municipalities; in Central Austria;
- Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus, 15th district of Vienna; characterised by a high number of immigrants; east
- Donaustadt, 22nd district of Vienna; the largest district in terms of population and area; East

In these districts 169 questionnaires were sent to all youth organisations. The rate of return at 37% was quite low. Some youth organisations apparently had to talk to their management to get the permission to fill out the questionnaire, so that some reluctance to give out data could be detected. Another possible reason for not returning the questionnaires could be the organisation of rural youth work. Structures are often quite loose, with voluntary youth workers whose focus is – apart from the few hours a week in the youth association or group – on their main working life.

Findings:

The picture of youth work that can be drawn at local level is that youth work is mostly provided by youth associations (53%) followed by open youth work (38%) youth activities accessible without association membership, and youth initiatives (9%), which are activities provided by youngsters to youngsters without the involvement of adults or organisations. The percentage of public organisations among is 18%.

The main action field of youth work at local level is the provision of group-oriented leisure time activities. Nevertheless the range of activities is wide - as illustrated by the following table:

Table 22: Activities of youth work in Austria

Activities	%
youth recreation (group-oriented activities)	100%
sports	93%
youth information	81%
cultural youth work	78%
extracurricular youth work	72%
youth counselling	71%
advised or adventure playgrounds	54%
international youth work	50%
youth social services	39%
youth education (within the formal system)	32%
youth employment	30%
mobile youth work	30%

Mobile youth work has a special importance in the districts of Vienna.

Most of the organisations state that their budget mainly derives from public spending (43%), membership fees (26%) and miscellaneous sources (21%).

The occupational background of youth workers is quite diverse. The survey indicates that most of the youth workers come from the fields of teaching (32%) and pedagogy (28%). Many youth workers have also completed youth leader seminars (33%). Most of them have had no specific training (44%). In open youth work there seems to be a tendency to employ more professional youth workers, often from a social work background. The majority of youth associations (52%) employ up to three youth workers, and half of the associations have up to six volunteers. The participating youth organisations reported 111 female and 75 male professionals.

The survey indicates that voluntary youth workers can be found in all youth work categories, but there are certain fields of youth work – sports in particular – where there are more voluntary youth workers than in others. The percentage of voluntary youth workers appears to be lower in mobile youth work and in the area of youth employment. There are more male than female youth workers: the youth organisations reported 620 male volunteer youth workers and 472 females. Most of the participating youth organisations (72%) offer training and further education for their voluntary youth workers.

Regarding the participants in youth work – the young people themselves – the following trends could be detected. Most of the participating youth organisations offer youth work to 13- to 19-year-olds. The 13- to 14-year-olds make up the largest group, with up to 2,000 participants a month. However, 50% of the organisations have “only” up to 21 participants in

this age group. The modus is 15 participants per month. 15- to 19-year-olds account for 1150 participants a month, and about 59% of organisations have up to 20 participants in this age group. For the 20- to 24-year-olds, 51.7% of the youth organisations have up to 10 participants. There are up to 873 young people of that age group participating in some organisations. The lowest number of participants can be found in the age group of 25- to 30-year-olds. Here there are only up to 200 participants, with 60% of the organisations claiming to have up to 10 participants a month in that age group.

Comments:

1. Differences between national and local level

The conducted survey in four communities showed once again that there is reluctance to give out data or to contribute to research concerning youth work in Austria. Much like at national level, it was not possible to obtain representative data on the topic at local level either. The categories used in the local questionnaire are applicable for the Austrian situation. Although they are commonly used in youth work and youth policy, they are not clearly defined and have different meanings for those involved in youth work.

As at national level, the categories used at local level to identify providers and activities were not selective enough.

2. Differences at local level

Regional differences and differences between youth work activities make it rather difficult to paint a precise picture of the situation of youth work in Austria. Youth work in Vienna – especially open youth work – can't really be compared to what goes on in the other states of Austria. The differences between Vienna and the rest of the country or between urban and rural areas in general seem to be supported by the local survey, although the findings have to be treated with reservations because they are not representative. The most striking differences appear to be in the organisation of youth work. There are more youth associations in the rural areas with more volunteers that have no specific training.

Generally speaking, there is an obvious lack of networking and exchange in youth work. While searching for all the youth organisations in the respective communities, it was difficult to get a complete list. Even if some kind of youth information is available, informants were often unable to tell how much and which kind of youth work is provided in their communities.

10.2 Estonia

Data base:

In Estonia the municipalities selected were:

- Kuusalu, a municipality of some 6,900 inhabitants located in Harju county in northern Estonia;
- Narva, a town in eastern Estonia with approximately 68,000 inhabitants (80% of the population are Russians and only 4% are Estonians);
- Pärnu, a town in the western Estonia with approximately 44,000 inhabitants; and
- Tartu, Estonia's second largest city, situated in the south of the country and with approximately 100,000 inhabitants.

The data was not easily accessible; although we managed to get some data about youth work, there are still many blanks. It was quite impossible to get data from the municipalities because officials in most municipalities claimed that they did not have time to collect it. In one case, the person responsible for collecting data in the municipality said that she did not have time to collect and process data because she had several jobs and was also active as a youth worker herself. Nevertheless we did get some relevant information about local youth work from the Estonian Youth Work Centre, but this data is of the same low quality as the data obtained for the national level.

Findings:

In some municipalities it is possible to track down the total number of youth work providers, for instance in Tartu. In the cases of Narva and Pärnu, the total number of youth work providers is not completely reliable because the data does not include the providers of open youth work. The only data available in these municipalities was about the hobby school or the hobby centres. There is also no reliable information about non-public youth work providers in Narva, but it seems very unlikely that there are no non-public providers at all. And surprisingly there is no data about public organisations in Kuusalu.

Table 23: Youth work providers and associations in Estonian municipalities

Youth work providers	Public	%	Non-public	%
Kuusalu	No data	-	6	-
Narva	8	100	0	0
Pärnu	6	25	18	75
Tartu	5	15	15	85

Some data is available about types of activities, but it is rather disputable. Some of the providers offer such a wide range of different youth work activities that it is hard to decide

which of these activities should be considered as the most important of the activities offered by this provider.

There are also some problems regarding the availability of data about youth work activities. In some cases officials admit that they have no data about some youth work activities, and in other cases it is obvious that the zeros in table 2 refer more likely to the fact that there is no data available about some youth work activity and not so much to the possibility that these youth work activities are not offered in the municipality.

Table 24: Youth work activities in Estonian municipalities

Youth work activity	Kuusalu		Narva		Pärnu		Tartu	
Cultural youth Work	1	12%	6	13%	9	18%	9	14%
Extracurricular youth work	1	12%	17	40%	17	33%	12	19%
Children and youth recreation	3	38%	1	2%	2	4%	9	14%
Open youth Work	3	38%	0	0%	0	0%	11	17%
Street work	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
Sports	No data	-	2	5%	8	16%	2	3%
Youth counselling	No data	-	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%
Youth education	No data	-	17	40%	15	29%	13	21%
Youth employment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
Youth information	No data	-	0	0%	0	0%	3	5%

The data about funds available for youth work and the relation between the sources of finance is unfortunately not available to us. There is currently a study being conducted about the budgets of youth work providers in the youth service of the Tartu city council, so that there should soon be quite detailed information available at least for Tartu.

The data available about youth workers is rather superficial. It is possible to obtain the total number of youth workers in the four municipalities selected. It must be noted, however, that in the three larger municipalities (Narva, Pärnu, Tartu) only the number of youth workers and teachers in the hobby schools and hobby centres are reported, so that the actual total number of youth workers is probably a little higher.

More detailed data is available only for the municipality of Kuusalu, where we obtained the number of youth workers working full-time and part-time (see table 25), the ratio of youth workers working in public and non-public organisations (5/3), the ratio of male and female youth workers (3/5) and the number of youth workers with higher education (4) or with professional school education (1).

Table 25: Youth workers in Estonian municipalities

	Kuusalu	Narva	Pärnu	Tartu
Total employees	8	218	291	201
Full-time	3	No data	No data	No data
Part-time	2	No data	No data	No data

The information available about the participants in the four selected municipalities is rather scarce. For the three larger municipalities (Narva, Pärnu, Tartu) we know the total number of participants, while in Kuusalu there is no information at all about participants. At the same time it is important to consider that the “total” number of participants in Narva, Pärnu and Tartu actually means the total number of participants in hobby schools and hobby centres. In all these municipalities, the number of young people participating in some other kind of activities (open youth work, youth counselling, youth recreation etc.) is not available and therefore not included in the so-called total number of participants.

Table 26: Participants in youth work in Estonian municipalities

	Kuusalu	Narva		Pärnu	Tartu
Total	No data	2569	100%	5564	1739
Girls	No data	1674	65%	No data	No data
Boys	No data	895	35%	No data	No data

Comments:**Differences between national and local level:**

As at national level, it was not possible to track all youth work providers at local level. We therefore have no basis for commenting the additional data.

10.3 Germany

In Germany the municipalities selected and surveyed were:

- Lübeck, a city situated in the north of Germany, with 70,000 inhabitants;
- Jork, a municipality located in the administrative district of Stade, with 12,000 inhabitants;
- Lingen, a municipality with nearly 56,000 inhabitants in the north-west of Germany and a centre for the petrochemical industry in Germany; and
- Ilm-Kreis, a rural district with 112,000 inhabitants.

Although all municipalities have to participate in the annual national youth services statistics, it was striking that data was not accessible easily. The national statistics are collected by means of questionnaires in paper form. These questionnaires are delivered to the statistic

offices of the state governments and digitalised. Attempts to get the results from the statistic offices failed. The data therefore had to be counted in the youth offices or obtained from the social planning activities. Because of the collection of local planning statistics and the contribution to the national youth services statistics, the municipalities were not well disposed to the idea of gathering new data. Thus it was not possible to use the age groups agreed for the survey.

Findings:

The local survey in four municipalities showed on the one hand that there are typical structures in the sector of youth work at local level in Germany, but on the other hand it becomes apparent that there are also differences in the structures and the contents of youth work. One interesting finding is that the small group of youth work providers offers a wide scope of different activities.

Table 27: Youth work providers and associations in German municipalities

		Public	%	Non-public	%
Lübeck	Youth work providers	11	46%	13	54%
	(Youth) associations			159	100%
Jork	Youth work providers	1	100%		
	(Youth) associations			21	100%
Ilm Kreis	Youth work providers	10	43%	13	57%
	(Youth) associations	No data			
Lingen-Ems	Youth work providers	5	71%	2	29%
	(Youth) associations	No data			

Looking at the organisational types of youth work providers, we note that whenever a number of providers are active in one local area, more of them tend to be non-public than public – though the ratio between them remains fairly close (with the exception of Lingen, where public providers dominate) – and that overall there are not very many providers in any one area. The data available on youth organisations in Jork and Lübeck shows that there are many youth associations and that they are exclusively non-public in their organisational forms.

Table 28: Youth work activities in German municipalities⁵⁰

	Cultural youth Work		Extracurricular youth education		Children and youth recreation		Open youth work, youth clubs, etc.		Youth associations and youth groups		Street work/ Mobile youth work		Sports		Youth counselling		Social work at schools	
Lübeck	37	1%	23	1%	577	13%	24	1%	3,578	83%	3	0%	15	0%	29	1%	/	/
Jork	4	19%	7	33%	1	5%	1	5%	1	5%	0	/	6	29%	0	/	1	5%
Ilm-Kreis	797	29%	325	12%	68	3%	619	23%	162	6%	0	/	1,107	41%	202	7%	231	9%
Lingen	90	14%	34	5%	35	5%	291	46%	90 ⁵¹	14%	56	9%	0	0%	4	1%	38 ⁵²	6%

The above table, which lists the main activities of youth work in the four municipalities, shows some major differences between the communities. This is partly a result of differences in the availability of data about youth associations. For Lübeck, where this information was available, 83% of all activities are listed as being offered by youth associations and youth groups, demonstrating the importance of youth associations and youth groups in this community. A similar observation can be made about the Ilm district, where 41% of activities involved sports. In addition to showing the relative importance of open youth work in the different communities, the data also reveals that youth counselling and social work at schools is of limited importance in all municipalities. Extracurricular youth education is important everywhere, but the significant differences between the percentages shown in the table depend on whether data on youth organisations and youth groups was available.

⁵⁰ Auf Grund der Struktur der Jugendhilfe, werden im Rahmen der Abbildung der Strukturen der Jugendarbeit, Daten und Informationen zu sozialen Diensten hier nicht dokumentiert.

⁵¹ Including group activities, and projects

⁵² calculation on basis of the Jahresbericht 2006, Offene Kinder- und Jugendarbeit in der Stadt Lingen, p.22

Table 29: Funding of youth work in German municipalities

	Total funds	Membership fees	Participation fees	Sponsoring	Municipal funds	Federal funds	National funds	European funds	Own contributions	Other
Lübeck ⁵³	€ 4,204,000 ⁵⁴	22%	16%	29%	17%	5%	1%	1%	9%	2%
Jork	€ 110,883	No data								
Ilm-Kreis	€ 1,378,729 ⁵⁵	No data								
Lingen	€ 742,806 ⁵⁶	No data								

The differences in expenditure for youth work between the individual municipalities are primarily due to their size. If we consider the ratio of youth work expenditure to the overall municipal budget, we see that Lübeck spends 0.75% of its total budget for youth work.⁵⁷ In Lingen 0.59% of the overall budget is spent on youth work.⁵⁸

⁵³ the data refers only to the funds of associations (N=580)

⁵⁴ budget for youth work and youth associations for 2007

⁵⁵ total costs for 2006

⁵⁶ total costs for 2006

⁵⁷ On the basis of the total budget for 2007 (€ 715,217,000)

⁵⁸ On the basis of the total budget for 2007 (€ 125,718,900)

Table 30: Youth workers German municipalities

		Total employees	Female	%	Fulltime	%	Part-time	%	Total all	Spare-time	%	Volunteers	%
Lübeck	Open Youth work	43	33	77%	26	60%	17	40%	281	76	27%	162	58%
	(Youth) associations	60	31	52%	60	100%			2,078	69	3%	1,949	94%
Jork	Youth work providers	12			2	17%	1	8%		9	75%		
	(Youth) associations	11										11	100%
Ilm-Kreis	Youth work providers	31			31	100%			17			146	82%
	(Youth) associations	1			1								
Lingen	Youth work providers	24			18	75%	6	25%	327	82 ⁵⁹	25%	245	75%
	(Youth) associations	No data											

The table shows a low number of employed youth workers as compared to large numbers of youth workers working on a spare-time basis and volunteers. Volunteers play a prominent role in youth associations, but they are also important for youth work providers. The data for Lingen shows that people in work placements, trainee social workers and honorary staff play an important role in the creation and organisation of services.

⁵⁹ including trainees

Table 31: Participants in youth work in German municipalities

		Total	Girls	%	Boys	%
Lübeck	Open Youth work	22,699 ⁶⁰ (192,941)	10,039	44%	12.660	56%
	(Youth) associations	16,451 ⁶¹ (789,648) ⁶²	7,300	44%	9.151	56%
Jork	Youth work providers	No data				
	(Youth) associations	No data				
Ilm-Kreis	Youth work providers	7,738 ⁶³	No data			
	(Youth) associations	2,231 ⁶⁴	No data			
Lingen	Youth work providers	46,775 ⁶⁵	No data			
	(Youth) associations	No data				

The data on participants in youth work activities is difficult to compare, as participants were not reported for all fields and the reference periods (per week, per month, per year) are different. The figures for Lübeck, projected to reflect annual figures, show particularly clearly the extent to which youth work, particularly the work of youth organisations, actually reaches its target groups. The figures for Lingen also show the performance level of youth work. The seven youth work providers in Jork, with 23 employees and some 320 volunteers, reach some 47,000 young people.

Comments:

1. Differences between national and local level

The data clearly shows the broad range of methods, contents and forms of youth work, whereby the overall range is difficult to see because of the limited data on youth work. The importance of sports as a sector of youth work is particularly difficult to show with the available data.

⁶⁰ participants per month

⁶¹ participants per week

⁶² calculated on basis of 48 Weeks

⁶³ participants per year in the year 2001. Calculation on the basis of the Jugendhilfeplanung des Ilm-Kreises, 2004-2008

⁶⁴ participants per year in the field of volunteer youth work, in the year 2006

⁶⁵ participants per year, calculation on basis of "participants per day" in the year 2006

The data does show clear differences with regard to the youth work activities being offered. While 47% of offers are in the area of child and youth recreation, and a further 38% in extracurricular youth education⁶⁶, these fields are not so important in the municipalities studied.

10.4 Greece

Data base:

In Greece the questionnaire was delivered to 8 municipalities via e-mail and contacts were made with people (employees) at the Youth Information Centres of these municipalities.

Finally 4 municipalities took part in the survey:

- Pilea, with some 40,000 residents, is located in the North of Greece and forms part of the Prefecture of Thessaloniki
- Chaidari, with approximately 48,494 residents, is located in the South of Greece and forms part of the Prefecture of Athens
- Kilkis, with approximately 25,000 inhabitants, is located in the North of Greece and forms part of the Prefecture of Kilkis and
- Dafni, with some 25,058 residents, is located in the South of Greece and forms part of the Prefecture of Athens

These municipalities were chosen according to geographical (north/south) and socio-demographic criteria (age of the population and development level).

Findings:

The total number of municipal activities related to youth work services is 323. The repartition between all youth work categories shows, that advised playgrounds, recreation/leisure time and cultural youth work are the main types of youth work provided:

⁶⁶ Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, Statistiken der Kinder und Jugendhilfe, Maßnahmen der Kinder- und Jugendarbeit 2004, Wiesbaden 2005

Table 32: Youth work activities in Greek municipalities

Category of youth work	Total number of activities	
Cultural youth work	54	17%
Extracurricular youth education.	19	6%
Children and youth recreation	73	23%
Open youth work, youth clubs, etc.	7	2%
Youth associations and youth groups	24	7%
Street work/ Mobile youth work	0	0%
Sports	19	6%
Youth counselling	6	2%
Advised (Adventure) playgrounds	76	24%
International youth work	26	8%
Youth social services	2	1%
Youth education (within the formal system)	6	2%
Youth employment/career services	5	2%
Youth information	6	2%

The total municipal budget available for youth work is €10,942,800. This amount is equivalent to an average of 7.75% of municipal budgets being spent for youth work. The activities funded with the greatest part of the budget are sports, cultural youth work and extracurricular youth education.

The total number of youth workers at local level is 251. 48% of them are men and 52% women. Categories of youth work where women dominate are youth social services, youth counselling, open youth work and cultural youth work. The majority of male youth workers work in the areas of sports and advised playgrounds.

Volunteering plays an important role for the provision of youth work. The total number of volunteers identified at local level is 229, a figure almost as high as the total number of youth workers (251). The next table shows the relation between employed youth workers and volunteers for the different categories of youth work:

Table 33: Youth workers in Greek municipalities

Type of Service	Total	Employed Persons	%	Number of Volunteers	%
Cultural youth work	48	22	46%	26	54%
Extracurricular youth education.	70	70	100%	0	0%
Children and youth recreation	30	8	27%	22	73%
Open youth work, youth clubs, etc.	51	28	55%	23	45%
Youth associations and youth groups	67	4	6%	63	94%
Street work/ Mobile youth work	0	0	0%	0	0%
Sports	37	35	95%	2	5%
Youth counselling	109	19	17%	90	83%
Advised (Adventure) playgrounds	23	23	100%	0	0%
International youth work	3	2	67%	1	33%
Youth social services	10	10	100%	0	0%
Youth education (within the formal system)	10	10	100%	0	0%
Youth employment/career services	5	5	100%	0	0%
Youth information	17	15	88%	2	12%

This list shows that the greatest percentage of volunteers, 94%, is to be found in youth associations and youth groups as expected, but also in the categories of youth counselling, youth recreation and cultural youth work.

60% of youth workers at local level are full-time employees, 4% part-time employees, and 36% have a one-off contract with the municipality.

Regarding the qualification of youth workers, differences were noted between youth workers employed in the sector of education and social youth work and those active in other fields of youth work. While the percentage of youth workers with a higher qualification is nearly equal, the percentage of youth workers with no formal education is much higher in the field of youth work that is not related to education or social services.

Table 34: Qualification of youth workers in Greek municipalities

	higher education	professional school	no formal education
Educational/social services	55%	38%	7%
Rest youth work services	53%	5%	43%

Data about participants in youth work is difficult to obtain at local level too. Not all municipalities were able to state numbers of participants, so that the data gives only a rough overview. Children and youth recreation, cultural youth work and open youth work are the activities that reach the greatest number of children and young people. The ratio between female and male participants is nearly equal, more girls than boys are to be found in the fields of cultural youth work, open youth work and youth social services, while boys more often attend activities such as sports and extracurricular youth education.

Table 35: Participants in youth work in Greek municipalities

Type of service	People benefiting	Women	%
Cultural youth work	16.670	1.260 ⁶⁷	8%
Extracurricular youth education	4.312	1.967	46%
Children and youth recreation	17.050	No data available	/
Open youth work, youth clubs, etc.	13.603 ⁶⁸	7.542 ⁶⁹	55%
Youth associations and youth groups	253	106	42%
Street work/mobile youth work	0	0	/
Sports	6.913	1.580 ⁷⁰	23%
Youth counselling	739	105 ⁷¹	14%
Advised (adventure) playgrounds	No data available	No data available	/
International youth work	38	25	66%
Youth Social Services	950	550	58%
Youth Education (within the formal system)	50	25	50%
Youth Employment/Career Services	1.240	No data available	/
Youth Information	9.469	3.239 ⁷²	34%

Comments:**1. Differences between national and local level**

The central finding of the survey conducted at municipal level is that with the exception of the category “street work / mobile youth work”, municipalities provide all categories of youth work at local level. The absence of data at national level therefore does not reflect the non-existence of youth work but the lack of a national reporting system. At local level there is an efficient system for the provision of youth work. The budget allocated at local level is nearly as high as the budget of the General Secretariat for Youth and reaches about € 11 million. The engagement of volunteers is high, especially in youth associations, but also in youth counselling and child and youth recreation activities. Thus the idea that volunteerism is not

⁶⁷ Data concern two out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Pilea and Municipality of Chaidari. And in particular, 1,260 out of 16,670 total participants.

⁶⁸ Data concern two out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Pilea and Municipality of Chaidari.

⁶⁹ Data concern two out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Pilea and Municipality of Chaidari.

⁷⁰ Data concern three out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Kilkis, Municipality of Pilea and Municipality of Chaidari. And, in particular, 4313 out of 6913 total participants.

⁷¹ Data concern only two out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Pilea and Municipality of Chaidari. And, in particular, 240 out of 739 total participants.

⁷² Data concern three out of the four municipalities: Municipality of Pilea, Municipality of Kilkis and Municipality of Chaidari. And, in particular, 8469 out of 9469 total participants.

particularly strong in Greece has to be put in another perspective for the sector of youth work. Most youth workers are professionals with a higher education. The professionalisation rate in the field of educational or social services is higher than in other areas of youth work.

10.5 Ireland

Data base:

Five municipalities of the East Cork area were selected to report about the socioeconomic scope of youth work at local level in Ireland:

- Midleton;
- Youghal,
- Cobh,
- Glanmire and
- Carrigtwohill.

East Cork epitomises Ireland's transition in microcosmic form. It is an area undergoing rapid transformation, with a population growth of 13.7% between 2002 and 2006. East Cork is at an intermediate phase in the process of its incorporation into the metropolitan life of Cork City – reflecting Ireland's sprawling city phenomenon, which is evidenced by the ambiguous borders between town and country. East Cork is 'terrain vague' and for its growing youth population it is often a 'non-place' or a series of 'non-places' in the form of satellite towns that somehow seem decentred from the urban world but no longer part of rural life. It is symptomatic of the loss of the great urban-planning ideals of urban design and rural sustainability. Social disadvantage is a significant issue.

The local structure of youth work could only be studied from a qualitative point of view because of the absence of an institutionalised youth work setting. There is an embryonic youth service in a state of emergence, but it is too early to quantify its achievements. The volunteer base of the structure and the lack of professional input, relatively speaking, limits records. However schematic data is provided in a table below.

Findings:

According to a report commissioned by East Cork Area Development (2007) and co-authored by Mary McGrath and Deborah Lynch, which had an overall response rate of 702 young persons aged 13-15 years from the five municipalities (Midleton, Youghal, Cobh, Glanmire and Carrigtwohill) and twelve schools, the local situation reflects the national picture of inadequate youth work services. McGrath and Lynch (2007: 21) asked young people in their survey where they went if they went out. Responses showed that 82.2% spend their leisure time 'hanging-around' [with friends] when they go out (see Table 36). This

pattern was consistent across the five municipalities and closely in line with the analysis included in the previous National Statistical Report of 90% 'hanging around outside' [National Children's Office Study, 2005).

Table 36: Activities of young people in Irish municipalities

Activity	Carrigtwohill Schools/Youth group (N=140)	Cobh Schools (N=86)	Glanmire Schools (N=126)	Midleton Schools /Youth Groups (N=273)	Youghal Schools /Youth Groups (N=77)	Total No. Respondents (N=702)
Hanging around (with peers)	118 (84.3%)	76 (88.4%)	110 (87.3%)	210 (76.9%)	63 (81.8%)	577 (82.2%)
Drinking alcohol	8 (5.7%)	5 (5.8%)	2 (1.6%)	15 (5.5%)	12 (16.6%)	42 (6%)
Hobby (dance, art, music, etc.)	0	6 (6.9%)	1 (0.8%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (1.3%)	9 (1.3%)
Sport (pitch and putt, soccer, etc)	2 (1.4%)	17 (19.8%)	13 (10.3%)	9 (3.3%)	8 (10.4%)	49 (7%)
Pool-snooker	0	1 (1.2%)	1 (0.8%)	0	0	2 (0.3%)
Cinema	19 (13.6%)	1 (1.2%)	18 (14.3%)	90 (32.9%)	16 (20.7%)	144 (20.5%)
Night-time activities (discos, band and open mic nights)	2 (1.4%)	4 (4.6%)	1 (0.8%)	11 (4%)	0	18 (2.6%)
Shopping	12 (8.6%)	0	4 (3.2%)	3 (1.1%)	0	19 (2.7%)
Part-time work (Babysitting)	0	4 (4.6%)	0	1 (0.4%)	0	5 (0.7%)
Other	28 (20%)	10 (11.6%)	9 (7.1%)	37 (13.6%)	13 (16.9%)	97 (13.4%)

Source: McGrath and Lynch (2007: 21)

Further scrutiny of the above table, which reveals the pattern of young people's activities in East Cork, shows a sharp contrast with the trends revealed in the National Statistical Report. Only 1.3% of young people in East Cork were engaged in hobbies compared with 65.2% nationally. Equally remarkable was the low level of participation in sports (7%) compared with 88% nationally. While only 6% reported that they drank alcohol, the qualitative data in the McGrath and Lynch study (2007: 22-23) indicates that alcohol and to a lesser extent drugs are endemic in youth culture in East Cork.

McGrath and Lynch (2007: 17) recorded that 79.1% of the young people in their survey answered 'no', when asked if they thought there were adequate facilities in their town for young people. Only 5.5% said 'yes', that there were adequate facilities. A further 9.1% gave a qualified response (see Table 37).

Table 37: Adequacy of Facilities for Young People in Irish municipalities

School/ Group Name	YES Adequate Facilities	NO Adequate Facilities	Other	No Response	Town Total No.
Carrigtwohill	5	80	17	38*	140
Cobh	4	73	9	0	86
Glanmire	17	105	4	0	126
Midleton	11	234	24	4	273
Youghal	2	63	10	2	77
Total	39 (5.5%)	555 (79.1%)	64 (9.1%)	44 (6.3%)	702

* As a result of changes made to this question by one organisation, the responses could not be included.

Source: McGrath and Lynch (2007: 17)

There is evidence of youth work services in East Cork. Some of these initiatives have been established only recently. This may partly explain the discrepancy between young people's perception of the complete absence of youth work facilities and the actual reality. There is at least one youth project in each of the five municipalities.

(i) The Youghal Youth Project

The Youghal Youth Project was established in 2005 under the management of Foróige (Youth Development). Its funding comes from the Dormant (Bank) Accounts programme, which involves the public utilisation of monies in banks that are no longer actively utilised. The project is developmental in orientation and aimed at young people 'at risk', notably school leavers. Associated with this project is the Youghal Youth Committee, which aims to develop services for young people in the town.

(ii) Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project

The Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project was established in 2005. It is managed by Foróige. The start-up funding was provided by a charity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Consequently, the Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project is an entirely voluntary initiative, based on a partnership between two third sector organisations. In line with the Foróige's development objectives, the aim of the project is to promote young people's personal and social development.

(iii) Cobh Youth Service

The Cobh Youth Service is a voluntary organisation established in 1992. It is managed by a voluntary board of directors and employs two full-time staff. The rest of the staffing is provided by volunteers, including people on work experience with FÁS (the National Manpower Service) as part of its community employment scheme. The Cobh Youth Service operates a centre called the 'Plateau' which is open 5 days per week and offers a homework club, swimming, model-making, soccer, pool and issue-based development programmes, plus 'drop-in' nights where groups 'can just come and chill'.

(iv) Midleton Youth Project

The Midleton Youth Project was established in 1997 by the Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service, which is an affiliate organisation of Youth Work Ireland. The project involves approximately 30 young people and includes: an under-16's group, the Budding Directors Film Project, a SKIT [Fun] Day and a Street Art Project, which explores the ambiguous boundaries between community art and vandalism.

(v) Midleton Peer Support Group

The Midleton Peer Support Group, founded in 2004, is a response to the town's reputation as having the highest youth suicide rate in Ireland. The aim of the programme is to harness young local people's energies in combating the scourge of suicide by developing their listening and communication skills, so that they can help their peers deal with crises and life's challenges in a constructive way. Their current aim is to establish a Youth Cafe in Midleton.

(vi) Glanmire Youth development Project

The Glanmire Youth Development Project was established in 2000 under the auspices of Ógra Chorcaí (Cork Youth). It employs two full-time staff, supported by a team of volunteers. Funding comes from the local Vocational Education Committee and the Drugs Task Force. The Glanmire Youth Development Project seeks to work with up to 200 'mainstream' young people from the area, with approximately 30 young people receiving intensive personal development support at any one time. Young people have identified a youth café as their priority for the area (McGrath and Lynch, 2007: 26-27).

Table 38: Youth work activities in Irish municipalities

	Management	Method	Professional youth workers	Volunteers ⁷³	Funding	Objective	Foundation Date
Carrigtwohill	Voluntary	Project	Manager by Foróige	Transition year pupils from St. Aloysius Secondary School	Allied Irish Banks St. Vincent de Paul Charity East Cork Area Development	Establish a youth café	2005
Cobh	Voluntary – board of directors	Youth club	2 full-time youth workers	FÁS and CE workers on employment experience plus volunteers	Department of the Environment	Establish a youth café	1992
Glanmire	Voluntary – Glanmire Youth Council	Project/youth club	2 full-time youth workers	Glanmire Youth Council Glanmire Film Club	Vocational Education Committee Drugs Task Force	Establish a youth café Film project	2000
Midleton	Voluntary/statutory partnership	Project/street work	Managed by Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service – Youth Work Ireland Health Education provides professional advice and support East Cork Area Development	Local volunteers	Youth Work Ireland Health Services Executive East Cork Area Development	Establish youth health café Film project and street project	1997
Youghal	Inter-agency partnership and Cumann Na Daoine – Youghal Community Development Project	Project	1 youth worker	Local volunteers	Dormant Bank Accounts Rapid Area Implementation Team (AIT)	Establish a youth café	2005

Manifestly, there is evidence of attempts to establish youth projects in the municipalities of East Cork. The key national youth organisations, Foróige and Youth Work Ireland, have been involved. Ógra Chorcaí, the main regional youth organisation, is also involved. Many of these initiatives date from the new century. However there are real concerns. There is little evidence of a local youth strategy in each municipality. This is essential. Funding is very weak, with no clear commitment from either central or local government. The youth projects seem to be very much on the periphery.

⁷³ The ratio of volunteers is difficult to assess but the national ratio is of professionals to volunteers 1:50 and for projects it is 1:6

Comments:

Differences between national and local level

The picture that can be drawn from the local level in Ireland is that there are isolated activities provided by youth associations trying to establish a minimal setting of youth work. At local level only one youth centre exists. Thus the main objective of the youth associations operating at local level is the establishment of meeting places for youngsters. There is little professional support for the given project as only five youth workers were identified as employed staff. Youth work is based above all on voluntary commitment. The lack of professionals is striking as the existing local initiatives address to disadvantaged youngsters that need intensive development support.

In contrast to the data given at national level, it can be stated that there are many more projects than youth centres.

10.6 Italy

Data base:

In Italy the attempt to run local surveys was not practicable due to the non-existence of offices, information desks or responsible institutions that could provide basic information. Each city has several institutions involved in youth work:

Institutions involved in youth work:

- voluntary associations;
- NGOs providing social services;
- sport groups;
- church groups;
- schools;
- institutions for extracurricular youth education;
- information desks from private and public institutions;
- employment centres run by the Department of Labour.

Nevertheless, information about the youth work provided within these institutions or associations and groups has to be collected in each of the organisations, and even there, there is no adequate reporting structure. The Youth Council of Caltanissetta, for example, was not able to inform researchers about the youth work activities in its area, even though it is a proper and responsible provider of youth work.

The scarce information gathered in Italy comes from the municipalities of Enna and Caltanissetta, which are both located in Sicily. In Enna the Eurodesk and the local employment centre were able to contribute some data about their youth work activities and the number of young people benefiting from employment services.

Findings:

The numbers of associations in Enna providing youth work in different action fields are the following:

Table 39: Youth work activities in Italian municipalities

Category of youth work	Total Number of Association
Cultural youth work	5
Extracurricular youth education.	1
Children and youth recreation	1
Open youth work, youth clubs, etc.	1
Youth associations and youth groups	4
Street work/ Mobile youth work	0
Sports	11
Youth counselling	4
Advised (Adventure) playgrounds	1
International youth work	0
Youth social services	8
Youth Education (within the formal system)	8
Youth employment/career services	5
Youth information	5

These numbers show that most youth work activities are available at local level. Thus the absence of an adequate reporting structure and a coordinating agency seem to be the main reason for the invisibility of youth work in Italy.

The employment centre reported that 1,207 young people were participating in special employment services, 75% of them male.

From the municipality of Caltanissetta, the information available refers to the number of pupils taking part in extracurricular education activities organised by the high schools. In 2005/2006 196 pupils took part in these activities. 59% choose to get involved in services for children and disabled people, 21% in civil protection activities, 11% in services for children, young people and the elderly, and 10% in youth work

In Caltanissetta there are four associations addressing their activities especially to young people. It is not possible to trace the activities for young people in the other associations.

The youth information / professional orientation desk "ECAP" in Caltanissetta provides training courses and information for young people. Data about the number of courses and the staff involved was not available. In 2006, 800 students were counselled at school and 220 frequented the institution.

Comments:

In Italy it was again not possible to survey youth work structures at local level. Information about providers, youth workers and youth work offered by associations is not available. Useful information was provided only by Eurodesk, but it does highlight the fact that the main categories of youth work are indeed available at local level.

10.7 The Netherlands

Data base:

An aim of the Dutch study was to gain an impression of the within-country differences in the sector of youth work. Therefore, the municipalities were chosen according to the expected differences. Previous studies reported differences to occur between municipalities depending on the number of inhabitants, between cities depending on the share of migrants, and between villages depending on religious affiliation.

In a first step, the criteria of the number of inhabitants and of the religious affiliation were combined in order to identify a heterogeneous set of municipalities. The resulting set of municipalities respectively municipal districts and their characteristics is given in the following Table:

Table 40: Background informations on the Dutch municipalities

	Amsterdam - Bos en Lommer	Den Bosch - Maaspoort	Zeewolde	Renswoude
Religious background	Neutral	Catholic	Neutral	Protestant
Number of inhabitants	~ 30,500 (Amsterdam ~ 743 000)	~ 18,000 (Den Bosch ~ 134 000)	~ 20,000	~ 4,500
Percentage of persons aged 13-30	Not known (Amsterdam ~ 25%)	~ 21% (Den Bosch ~ 23%)	~ 21%	~ 25%
Percentage of migrants	~ 75%	~ 15%	~ 11%	~ 4%

Data within the four selected municipalities or municipal districts was collected from the providers of activities of youth work. These providers were identified by examining the municipalities' homepages for young people. Where such a homepage was not available, the *gemeentegids* (guide to the municipality) was scanned for activities that (I) took place within the municipality and (II) were targeted at young people. The identified providers of youth work activities were sent a covering letter explaining the research project and a questionnaire based on the common list of indicators of the international research project. As this led to a low response rate (n=1 after two weeks), providers were then called and interviewed via telephone, or, where necessary, face to face. The change in approach led to a response rate of about 75%. It turned out that lack of response was due to a different reason for each type of provider. The for-profits did not see themselves as providers of youth work activities and

therefore did not see the questionnaire as being applicable to them. The public and semi-public providers were occupied with the tasks of providing youth work activities and dealing with the changes brought about by the Social Support Act⁷⁴. The non-profits, finally, were often suffering from a fluctuation of active members and an unclear division of tasks, so that they had either not received the questionnaire or were not sure who should deal with it.

Findings

Surveying the four municipalities showed that there are major differences in the sector of youth work within the Netherlands. In one municipality, the municipality itself was found to strongly support initiatives helping society deal with young people in problematic situations and helping the young people concerned to participate in society. In the second municipality, in contrast, non-profits were remarkably involved, especially in organising sports activities, among others for young people. In the third and a fourth municipality, finally, the sector of youth work is only weakly developed. One of those municipalities relies on its inhabitants' financial capability for using market-based solutions, while the other promotes participation in the activities of neighbouring municipalities.

Apart from these differences, there are also some similarities to be found when comparing the four municipalities. These similarities concern the providers and activities of youth work, the youth workers, and the participants in the activities of youth work.

Concerning the providers of youth work, it is striking that there was always one type of provider dominating the youth work landscape in each municipality. If there was a large number of young people in problematic situations in a particular municipality, the dominant type of provider was public or semi-public, and the activities they were associated with were youth centres, mentoring and educational activities. In other cases, however, non-profit providers and sports activities came to the forefront. In none of the municipalities did for-profits play a major role in the youth work sector, probably because these organisations do not primarily see themselves as youth workers but as service providers.

The aggregated data shows that most of the providers are non-profit organisations.

Table 41: Youth work providers and associations in Dutch municipalities

	Total	non-profit	semi-public	public	profit	not known
Number of providers	28	20	3	1	3	1
%	100%	71%	11%	4%	11%	4%

Another interesting finding concerning providers is that public and semi-public providers tend to combine several youth work activities in one association, whereas non-profit and for-profit providers tend to focus on a small number of different activities. Sports, recreational

⁷⁴ The Social Support Act (wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning) came into force on 1 January 2007. It brought about changes in the social area and shifted some responsibilities to the local level, i.e. to the municipalities.

of full-time employees. Volunteers can be found primarily in non-profit organisations, but they also play a role for public and semi-public providers. Their tasks are often at the functional level, e.g. as trainers or mentors, but sometimes they also include administrative and organisational aspects.

Table 45: Youth workers in Dutch municipalities

	Total	Full-time	%	Part-time	%	Volunteers	%
Youth workers	570	15	3%	32	6%	523	92%

The full- and part-time employees, in contrast, work primarily for public and semi-public providers, but sometimes also in larger sports associations. Their tasks cover all kinds of activities, but most often contain some administrative and organisational elements. The share of qualified youth workers, be it with a higher education degree or a professional school certificate, is highest among public and semi-public providers. The share of trained volunteers, however, is not so much connected to the type of provider but rather to the activity the volunteers are involved in. Generally speaking, demanding activities also call for a training of the volunteers involved. Examples of such demanding activities are exposure to young people in problematic situations, training for competitive athletes, and work at parties where many people get drunk and become abusive. Yet at the same time it should also be mentioned that not all untrained volunteers lack qualifications in the field of youth work. Several participants in this study reported that the volunteers in their organisation included trainees and students of social work.

The ratio of female to male youth workers is balanced, but there are more female part-time youth workers than male.

Table 46: Ratio of female to male youth workers in Dutch municipalities

	Total	Female	%	Male	%
Full-time	15	7	47%	8	53%
Part-time	32	20	63%	12	38%
Volunteers	523	271	52%	252	48%

Concerning the participants in youth work activities, finally, it should once again be stressed that they are not adequately captured with the definition of youth used in this project. In the literature review, it was reported that the actual target group of Dutch youth work are persons between 10 and 23 years of age. The section on national statistics showed that most municipalities do not even serve this entire age span but rather concentrate on persons between 12 and 16 years of age. With the age groups given for this project, one cannot make such fine distinctions, but it nevertheless becomes obvious that persons aged 20 and older are a marginal group in youth work.

Table 47: Participants in youth work in Dutch municipalities

	Total	13-14	%	15-19	%	20-24	%	25-30	%	Missing
Cultural youth work	12	6	50%	6	50%		/		/	0
Sports	890	361	41%	324	36%	58	7%	105	12%	42
Education	105	15	14%	18	17%	3	3%		/	69
Mentoring	80	64	80%	16	20%		/		/	0
Recreation	123	26	21%	88	72%	9	7%		/	0

Comments:**Differences at local level**

The survey of the four Dutch municipalities has contributed relevant information to the limited picture of youth work drawn at national level. The main finding here is, that the nature and scope of youth work at local level depends on the social structure and the special needs of the inhabitants. In municipalities with underprivileged youth groups, greater efforts are made to provide initiatives that support the integration of these young people, whereas in municipalities with well-situated inhabitants there is to a greater extent a youth work structure that is regulated by the market. Beyond this it is striking that also the social ideas of the inhabitants also influence the provision of youth work.

Differences between national and local level

In contrast to the data about youth work available at national level in the Netherlands, the data about the situation at local level highlights the high number of volunteers involved in youth work. The training of these volunteers seems to depend on the tradition of the providers, as one can find organisations where only a small number of volunteers are trained, and others where this is the case for all of them. There is also another remarkable trend: if the activities in which volunteers are involved are demanding, then most of them are trained.

Regarding the age of the young people involved in youth work, the local survey has confirmed the national level data that identified 12- to 16-year-olds as the main target group of youth work. Sports, recreation, youth clubs and extracurricular youth education are the main action fields of youth work identified at local level.

10.8 Norway**Data base:**

The number of inhabitants, which can influence the number of public and voluntary youth work activities, was the first criterion for the selection of the four municipalities. The second was the level of urbanisation. In Norway there is large variation in the level of urbanisation between the municipalities. It is possibly more challenging to conduct youth work in rural

areas because of the larger distances involved. Also, differences in population density in rural versus urban areas might have lead to different traditions of voluntary work. A situation where it is challenging for public organisations to conduct youth work could lead to more voluntary youth work. The four municipalities that were selected for the survey are:

- Oslo
- Porsgrunn
- Nedre Eiker
- Frøya

These municipalities were chosen because they vary in number of inhabitants and level of urbanity. Oslo is the largest city in Norway. Porsgrunn is a medium-sized city. Nedre Eiker is a medium-sized rural municipality. Frøya is a small and rural municipality.

Table 48: Background information for the Norwegian municipalities⁷⁵

	Oslo	Porsgrunn	Nedre Eiker	Frøya
Population	548,617	33,977	21,877	4,052
Public expenditure per inhabitant (Euro)	6,657	5,726	4,755	6,566
Youth population (13-29)	126,714	6,893	4,540	783
Youth population as percentage of total population	23.1	20.3	20.8	19.3
Child and youth population (0 – 17)	110,109	7,616	5,386	999
Child and youth population as percentage of total population	20.1	22.4	24.6	24.7

Another important criterion was the existence of data regarding youth work. The chosen municipalities have all participated in developmental projects or research projects. Because of that there is more information available about youth work in these four municipalities than in most Norwegian municipalities. Frøya and Nedre Eiker participated in a developmental project called Nettungen and therefore have established websites with information about activities for children and young people. In Oslo and Porsgrunn youth surveys have been carried out.

Most of the information presented here comes from existing surveys, official databases, voluntary organisations and telephone interviews with youth workers working in the local administration. Before the survey was conducted it was decided that it would be necessary to use both existing data and telephone interviews to get valid data. It was considered unlikely that sending questionnaires to organisations conducting youth work would lead to much information. There are several reasons for this. Much of the existing youth work in Norway is done by voluntary organisations. The number of voluntary organisations conducting youth work in one municipality can be very high. It would not have been possible to locate all these

⁷⁵ Source: SSB and KOSTRA

voluntary organisations and to send them a questionnaire within the given time frame of this project. Even though it is easier to get in contact with public organisations conducting youth work, it is doubtful that they would have been able to answer all of the questions. In many cases they do not have more data available than what has already been published on public databases. Therefore information has been gathered both from existing statistics and from employees within the local administration.

Findings:

It has been difficult to find the exact number of activities. Besides the information given on the Nettungen websites there is little existing information. When information is available, like in Oslo, different sources often have different figures. Lack of information could mean that the numbers of youth activities are underestimated. This especially true in the case of Porsgrunn, where very little information was found. It is very unlikely that the number of youth work is as low as the table shows. Another major difficulty is the problem of separating youth work from activities directed at children. Most public and voluntary organisations involved in youth work also work with children. This problem is smaller in the municipalities that participated in Nettungen, as there is information on the website about what age groups the different activities are intended for. In Oslo this is a major problem, as we know little more than the number and name of the voluntary organisations receiving financial support. This could mean that the estimate of youth work activities estimated in Oslo is too high, as it contains both youth and child work.

The tables show that public organisations focus on activities for young people with problems and on open youth work and youth clubs. Voluntary organisations focus on sports, cultural activities, youth groups and associations. The borderline between public and voluntary organisations is not always obvious. Sometimes voluntary organisations carry out work on behalf of public organisations such as child welfare services.

Table 49: Youth work activities in Norwegian municipalities

	Public organisations	%	Voluntary organizations	%	Total	%
Cultural youth work	24	8%	294	92%	318	28%
Extracurricular youth education	0	/	4	100%	4	0,3%
Children and youth recreation	16	55%	13	45%	29	3%
Open youth work, youth clubs etc.	89	89%	11	11%	100	9%
Youth associations and youth groups	1	1%	171	99%	172	15%
Street work/mobile youth work	6	100%	0	/	6	1%
Sports	4	1%	427	99%	431	38%
Youth counselling	3	100%	0	/	3	0,2%
Advised playgrounds	0	/	0	/	0	0
International youth work	1	17%	5	83%	6	1%
Youth social services	49	100%	0	/	49	4%
Youth education (within the formal system)	3	100%	0	/	3	0,2%
Youth employment	6	100%	0	/	6	1%
Youth information	2	29%	5	71%	7	1%
Total	204	18%	930	82%	1134	100%

The main sources of information on the amount of money spent on youth work are KOSTRA and Frifond.

Table 50: Budget of youth work in Norwegian municipalities (in public organisations in Euro)⁷⁶

	Oslo	Porsgrunn	Nedre Eiker	Frøya
Child welfare expenses per inhabitant aged 0 - 17	862	589	528	609
Expenses for child and youth activities per inhabitant	42	25	23	25
Expenses for public cultural-activities and music schools per inhabitant	6	23	13	49
Expenses for sports facilities per inhabitant	56	45	36	42

There are some differences in public expenses between the municipalities. Oslo spends substantially more for child welfare and child and youth activities, and less for cultural activities and music schools than the other three municipalities. Frøya has substantially higher expenses for cultural activities and music schools. The differences can be due to differences in expenses for running the activities and to differences in priorities.

⁷⁶ Source: KOSTRA

Table 51: Public spending on voluntary organisations in Norwegian municipalities in Euro⁷⁷

	Oslo	Porsgrunn	Nedre Eiker	Frøya ⁷⁸	Total
Number of voluntary organisations receiving support	1274	101	26		1401
Average financial support per organisation receiving support (Euro)	6405	1709	5370		6047
Total public spending on voluntary organisations	8159970	172609	139620		8472199
Financial support for voluntary organisations per inhabitant	15	5	6		14

The number of voluntary organisations presented in the table includes both organisations that conduct youth work and those that does not. This means that we do not know for sure how much of the support goes to youth work. Because Oslo is both a city and a county there is some supplementary information on the financial support granted to voluntary organisations.

Table 52: Financial support from Frifond and from local government authorities to youth organisations, groups and associations in Oslo in Euro⁷⁹

	Financial support	Average support per inhabitant aged 13 - 26
Frifond	1371250	10,8
Local government	1475000	11,6
Total	2846250	22,4

The table shows average support per inhabitant aged 13 – 26 because there is no information on the number of members in the organisation receiving financial support from Frifond. The total number of members in the organisations receiving financial founding from local government authorities is 16,350. This represents an average support of 97.9 euros per member. In addition to these figures, organisations also receive financial funding on a national level, and some of the money is transferred to local and regional level. This means that the financial support for voluntary organisations conducting youth work is probably higher than what has been presented.

There is very little information available on youth workers in voluntary organisations. Therefore this section will focus on youth workers in public organisations. The numbers presented includes both employees working with young people and employees working with children, as it was impossible to separate these two categories. The information from the four municipalities is not added together when there is no information from Oslo, because Oslo is by far the largest municipality, and the numbers then would be misleading.

⁷⁷ Source: KOSTRA

⁷⁸ No information for Frøya available on KOSTRA

⁷⁹ Source: Frifond

Table 53: Youth workers in Norwegian municipalities ⁸⁰

	Oslo	Porsgrunn	Nedre Eiker	Frøya
Full-time positions in child welfare per 1000 inhabitant aged 0 – 17 ⁸¹	3	3,2	2,9	2,8
Full-time positions in public youth clubs, holiday clubs, mc-centers, music workshops, media workshops per 1000 inhabitant aged 0 – 17*	1,6	1,0	1,2	4,6

The number of full-time positions in child welfare per 1000 inhabitants is similar for the four municipalities. Frøya has substantially more employees per inhabitant in youth clubs than the other municipalities. This is probably because the municipality covers a large area. This means that they must have more youth clubs than they would if the municipality was smaller.

Table 54: Employees in Norwegian municipalities in child welfare ⁸²

	Oslo ⁸³	Porsgrunn	Nedre Eiker	Frøya	Total
Number of employees		27	20	3	
Full time positions	306.8	23.5	17.5	3	350.8
Male		2	4	0	
Female		25	16	3	
Education		Higher	Higher	Higher	

Most youth workers in child welfare have higher education as this is required for these kinds of positions. The table also shows that there are far more males than females working in child welfare.

The most reliable source of information we have on participation is Young in Oslo 2006 and Young in Porsgrunn 2002. In addition some statistics from KOSTRA and the Youth Work Survey will be presented. KOSTRA contains only information about participation in youth work conducted by public organisations. The Youth Work Survey also only contains information about public youth work because of the difficulties involved in doing a survey on voluntary organisations discussed earlier.

⁸⁰ Source: KOSTRA, Youth Work Survey

⁸¹ the employees in child welfare services works both with children and youth

⁸² the employees in child welfare services works both with children and youth

⁸³ little available information for Oslo

Table 55: Members of organisations in Norwegian municipalities ⁸⁴

	Oslo		Porsgrunn		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	11,921	100%	906		12,827	
Members of organisations offering recreational activities	2,785	23%	168	19%	2,953	23%
Members of cultural associations and organisations	1,385	12%	109	12%	1,494	12%
Members of youth clubs	1,389	12%	81	9%	1,470	11%
Members of youth associations	1,779	15%	124	14%	1,903	15%
Members of sports and other organisations and organisations	4,583	38%	424	47%	5,007	39%

Generally the differences in participation in youth work between Oslo and Porsgrunn are small. The participation rate for recreational activities, cultural activities, youth clubs and youth associations is a bit higher in Oslo than in Porsgrunn. The findings are difficult to interpret because the survey in Porsgrunn was done four years before the one in Oslo. The differences could result from the difference in time rather than from differences between the cities.

More males than females participate in recreational activities, in youth clubs and in sports, whereas more females are involved in youth associations and youth groups. Generally the differences are small.

Table 56: Ratio of male to female members of youth organisations in Norwegian municipalities

Members of organisations offering recreational activities	2,931	100%
Male	1,721	59%
Female	1,210	41%
Members of cultural associations	1,483	100%
Male	782	53%
Female	701	47%
Members of youth clubs	1,461	100%
Male	824	56%
Female	637	44%
Members of youth associations	1,892	100%
Male	856	45%
Female	1,036	55%
Members of sports and other organisations	4,958	100%
Male	2,848	57%
Female	2,110	43%

In general the rate of participation for 15-19- year-olds is higher than for those aged 13-14. There are more younger participants in youth clubs and in sports than in the other categories.

⁸⁴ Source: Young in Oslo 2006 and Young in Porsgrunn 2002

Table 57: Members in youth organisations in Norwegian municipalities by age groups

Members of organisations offering recreational activities	2,949	100%
13 - 14 years	666	23%
15 - 19 years	2,283	77%
Members of cultural associations	1,493	100%
13 - 14 years	345	24%
15 - 19 years	1,148	76%
Members of youth clubs	1,470	100%
13 - 14 years	447	30%
15 - 19 years	1,023	70%
Members of youth associations	1,901	100%
13 - 14 years	414	22%
15 - 19 years	1,487	78%
Members of sports and other organisations	4,997	100%
13 - 14 years	1,285	26%
15 - 19 years	3,712	74%

Comments:

Differences between national and local level

As at national level, collection of data at local level has been challenging because of the many organisations involved and of the many different kinds of information sources. The most reliable data is for number of youth work activities in Nedre Eiker and Frøya and participation in Oslo and Porsgrunn. Some information is available on youth workers in public organisations, but it is striking that although voluntary commitment plays an important role in Norway, very little is known about youth workers in voluntary organisations.

In contrast to national level, it is possible at local level to categorise different youth work activities. The most common activities provided are sports (38%), cultural youth work (28%) and youth associations and groups (15%). The exact amount of expenditure was not traceable because of the different funding sources. It is striking that youth work is mostly a female domain, as 88% of the employees are women.

Differences at local level

The comparison between the municipalities shows that the number of inhabitants in the municipality influences the number and variety of available youth work activities. The level of urbanity has not been found to influence youth work.

10.9 Romania

Data base:

The data presented in this part of the report was surveyed from four counties:

- Alba,
- Bihor,
- Cluj and
- Sibiu.

All these four counties are located in Transylvania, the north-western part of Romania. They are close to each other and were chosen for access reasons. Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, was excluded, as it is not representative for other municipalities. The reasons for choosing the four counties were also comparative ones as in two out of the four counties, Bihor and Cluj, there is a significant Hungarian minority. This had to be reflected in the study. The other significant minority living in Romania, the Roma population, is present in all four counties, but unfortunately we could not identify any specific Roma youth organisation. In Sibiu county, the German minority was quite strong, but we could not trace any specific organisations or youth activities.

The main focus of data collection was the County Youth Departments in the main cities investigated. They represented a useful source of information for data regarding number of projects, budget and information on non-governmental youth organisations. As data on non-governmental youth organisations was very scarce, we used all possible information channel: web-sites mostly, direct inquiry from the CYD, and telephone calls. The main part of the research, however, was carried out with internet resources.

Findings:

The survey identified a wide range of youth work activities at local level. The following table gives an overview of the types of youth work identified:

Table 58: Youth work activities in Romanian municipalities

Type of activity		%
Recreation/leisure-time activities	34	17
Youth centres	7	3
Cultural youth work	30	15
Extracurricular youth education	61	30
Youth information	53	26
Sports	13	6
Social services	2	1
Other	3	1
Total	203	100%

One of the activities provided, youth information, is most often put into practice in the form of central information campaigns on the dangers of drug use or on sex education, political activities, voting and election issues, political representation, violence in society, school issues, domestic problems, gender-based violence etc. There are a significant number of recreational and leisure-time activities for young people, for instance music concerts, music contests, folk dance, dances, camps, winter and summer trips, trekking. Seminars, training for project management, youth policies and funding opportunities and job-seeking represent another category well developed in Romanian youth work. These activities provide opportunities for young people to meet, to exchange skills, to have access to non-formal training opportunities and to information. Unfortunately, sports are not so present. One explanation for this could be that sports in Romania are managed by a specific authority and that sports activities are counted, supervised and funded by institutions that were not the subject of the present research.

Youth work financed and planned by state institutions – the County Youth Departments – represents the most significant part of youth activities within the counties surveyed. This does not mean that non-governmental organisations carrying out these activities cannot apply for funds. With the Youth (Information) Centres, the National Authority for Youth is trying to also reach the rural communities where youth is not well organised or where there are very few youth organisations or non-governmental organisations. In this regard, the fact that two of the three existing youth centres in Cluj County are located in rural areas is a big step forwards.

In the four counties we surveyed 135 non-governmental associations. Most of them (42, 31%) are youth associations, and students organisations are also numerous (34, 25%). Unfortunately no information was available on the number of members in these organisations, and the only activities that could be traced were those financed with NAY funds. Most of these associations are located in the main city of the county, but some of their activities take place in remote areas. Volunteers organisations have started to gain terrain.

Three years ago, an annual project was started at national level: “the Week of the Volunteers”, when volunteering activities, NGO fairs, debates and meetings are organised in as many Romanian cities as possible.

Regarding the budget of youth work at local level, four main sources could be identified:

Table 59: Sources of budget in Romanian municipalities

National budget provided by the National Authority for Youth to the four counties in 2006	€ 108,538
National budget for non-governmental youth associations	€ 26,906
Local budget	€ 176,915
European funds from the 2007 “Youth in Action” programme for the four counties	€ 130,458
Total	€ 442,817

It can be stated that youth work at local level is financed by a mix of European, national and local funds. It should be mentioned that applying for public money involves a great deal of paper work in all cases. In addition, the NAY funds are distributed among institutions in very small budgets, so that NGOs often do not consider it worth applying for them. Thus many small or start-up youth organisations benefit from these calls for projects.

The number of **youth workers** could be identified only for public institutions and for the County Youth Departments:

Table 60: Ratio of male to female youth workers in Romanian municipalities

County name	Director of CYD		Youth worker / counsellor		Camps counsellor		Administrative staff		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Alba		1		1	1	1		1	5
Bihor	1			1	30				32
Cluj	1		2	1		1			5
Sibiu	1		3	2+1	1	1			9
TOTAL	3	1	2	6	2	2			16

Eight youth workers – two men and six women – could be identified as youth workers. They work as “youth counsellors”, i.e. they are responsible for organising and monitoring youth activities and for providing information to young people. This represents a low ratio of workers to the youth activities provided, as these persons are responsible for youth activities in both urban and rural settings in the entire county. An example: the three youth workers in Cluj county are responsible for 170,000 young people aged from 15 to 29 years. All youth workers are full-time employees, and most of them have a professional qualification and more than five years’ experience in youth work.

Their work is complemented by the work of non-governmental youth organisations, where it was not possible to identify the number of youth workers. One of the reasons for this is that

in the non-governmental sector people working with young people are not identified as youth workers but as “trainers”, “project managers” or simply “members” or “volunteers”. In most of the cases, they are young people under 30 themselves. Most youth workers have been trained in special youth work training programmes. Large organisations may have between three and five youth workers.

Regarding the number of participants in youth work, only those young people participating in projects funded by the NAY could be traced:

Table 61: Participants in youth work in Romanian municipalities

Type of activity	Number of activities	Participants
Recreation/ leisure-time activities	20	589
Cultural youth work	16	3.237
Extracurricular youth education	53	7.539
Youth information	45	3.505
Sports	12	926
Total	146	15.796

Extracurricular youth education, youth information campaigns and cultural youth work are the activities that reach the greatest number of young people. Nevertheless it is not possible to generalise from this data as it is limited to projects.

The youth work activities provided at local level are address mostly to young people living in urban areas. The opening of Youth Centres by the County Youth Departments in smaller urban areas and in rural areas are the only targeted initiatives for the rural population. There are also youth organisations that address that specific group, but most of their activities are limited initiatives in comparison to the diversity currently available in urban areas.

Based on calculations, approximately 8% of the youth population is targeted and involved in youth activities.

Regarding the ethnic distribution of participants in youth work, it can be stated that the Hungarian minority is involved and respected. This cannot be said for the Roma population, which is discriminated in youth work as it is in other aspects of life. We could find no Roma organisations or youth activities addressed to Roma youth.

Regarding the age of young people participating in youth work, it can be stated that most of the participants are between 18 and 24 years old. The reason for this lies in the strong tradition of student associations in Romania and the good cooperation that still exists with the County Inspectorates for Education, with high schools and universities. While there are also activities for the 14- to 18-year-old population, no activities can be traced for young people older than 24.

Comments:

Differences between national and local level

In Romania the local survey was able to trace youth work activities provided at local level, the funds allocated, and the number of youth workers employed in the County Youth Departments. It was not possible to make all activities and structures provided by youth associations or non-governmental association visible.

The data provided at local level shows that Romania also offers a variety of youth work at local level. As the municipalities fund youth work, subsidiarity is put into practice. Unfortunately it is not possible to highlight the contribution of youth associations to the youth work practice, as no data is available regarding youth workers and members. The reason for this is that youth worker is not a recognised profession.

Differences at local level

The youth work activities traced for the four counties represent the local structures of youth work in the other 36 counties of Romania, as local bodies merely promote the youth policy shaped at national level. The NGO sector is more flexible, as local NGOs can nowadays have a greater influence on their services.

10.10Spain

Data base:

In Spain fifteen questionnaires were sent to different local organisations and associations in different rural and urban areas in different regions. However only five of these questionnaires were sent back, since in a Spanish context the questionnaire was difficult to understand due to the lack of specific definitions and the overlapping of categories. This is mainly due to the lack of a tradition in youth work and associations in Spanish society, along with the limited role of youth trainers and youth policies in the Spanish welfare state. The questionnaires collected were from:

- the Segovia City Council
- the Valladolid City Council
- the Cuéllar City Council
- JIS (Youth for Equality and Solidarity)
- AFS Intercultura

Findings:

There were differences in types of **youth work** documented between regions as well as between rural and urban areas. For example in Segovia, a city with a population of around 20,000, they did not have a Youth Council until 2003, when they created the “Casa Joven” following the election of the socialist party into the city council. This demonstrates the lack of focus on youth in urban areas. In rural areas the difficulties are greater, and the limited youth programmes and activities play an even smaller role. Depopulation and ageing of the population in rural Spain must be mentioned as factors partly explaining the reduced youth activities in rural environments.

For Segovia the activities mentioned were mainly extracurricular educational and leisure activities. There is also a focus on information and consultancy on employment and sports. In all cases activities relating to international youth exchanges were limited or non-existent.

In a mid-sized city council like Valladolid, the youth work map is similar to that of a city like Segovia. In any case, both budgets are quite meagre relative to the population. The associations studied work with public and private budgets and are organised within social networks to carry out cultural and exchange activities, while on an autonomous level they carry out activities with immigrant youth. In this last case, the main activities are cultural as well as in the area of non-formal education and consultancy. In both cases the budget is relatively reduced, denoting limited institutional support for associations that work with young people.

Table 62: Youth work activities in Spanish municipalities

YOUTH WORK

	Scope	Type of Association	Number of activities by category of youth work										Budget		
			Cultural	Extracurricular and formal education	recreation	Youth associations	Street work	Advised and employment	International	Open youth work	Sports	Public	Private	Total amount	
Segovia City Hall	Local - Urban	Public	8	100	200	20	AW*	20	N/A	5	50	90%	10%	177.000 €	
Cuellar Town Hall	Local - Rural	Public-Rural	10	0	21	2	0	3	0	0	6	100%	0%	60.000 €	
Jovenes por la Igualdad y la Solidaridad	Regional	Private	20	20	10	5	5	25	10	2	15	80%	20%	230.000 €	
AFS Intercultura	National	Public-Private	20	3	5	N/A	N/A	15	3	1	1	4%	96%	630.000 €	
Valladolid City Hall	Local-Urban	Public	20	20	100	50	10	100	N/A	N/A	40	100%	0%	1.400.000 €	

* AW = All weekends

Source: Local Survey for Spain, 2007

For councils in rural areas, the activities performed concern youth and childhood leisure consultancy. In rural environments the lack of activities, budgets and personnel are even greater than in urban environments.

The data gathered about **youth workers** indicates that the majority of workers have a higher education, either as teachers, social workers or socio-cultural leaders.

It can also be noted that the percentage of women youth workers is slightly greater than that of male youth workers, which shows that youth work is characterised as female work in

almost all of the activities. Relative to the type of contract the workers have, we see differences between city councils and associations. For city councils, youth workers are usually full-time civil servants, while in associations they are usually part-time workers.

Relative to the number of volunteers, it must be noted that in Spain there is not a tradition of voluntarism, thus we did not find any volunteers in the city councils, but in Segovia we did find "students in internships" which we could consider as volunteers. However, in associations where young people are working there are more volunteers, for instance in AFS Intercultura. In both cases the number of female volunteers is greater than male volunteers. The activities youth participate in are mainly cultural as well as extra-curricular education and leisure time activities. In none of the cases are educational activities carried out with the young people.

Table 63: Youth workers in Spanish municipalities

YOUTH WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS												
	Youth workers						Volunteers					
	Numbers by gender		Qualifications			Sort of work			Numbers by gender		Activities of Volunteers	Training of volunteers
	Males	Females	Professional school	Higher education	Non formal qualification	Full time	Part time	Spare time	Males	Females		
Segovia City Hall	9	30	5	1	2	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	7*	Nothing	Nothing
Cuellar Town Hall	12	32	5	2	5	4	2	6	N/A	N/A	Nothing	Nothing
Jovenes por la Igualdad y la Solidaridad	12	23	3	8	N/A	4	6	1	29	45	Nothing	Few
AFS Intercultura	53	68	1	6	4	8	2	1	195	475	Few	Few
Valladolid City Hall	2	1	N/A	3	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	0	0	Nothing	Nothing

Nota: * Estudiantes en prácticas

Source: Local Survey for Spain, 2007

With regards to **youth work participants**, again the differences between city councils and associations must be highlighted. In city councils young people usually participate in cultural and informal educational activities. Sports are important in this context. Female participation is only slightly less than male participation. Age is equally distributed. For the Segovia City Council, there are many young people between the ages of 15 and 19 participating in sports and leisure activities. After the age of 25, the number of participants drops considerably in all of the activities. The city councils involved do not have information on the young people's education.

In rural environments there are few young people who participate in activities, and the majority that do are between the ages of 13 and 19. These low figures are due to the lack of youth policy in rural environments that was mentioned above.

With regards to the data collected for associations, the profile of young participants varies widely. For AFS, the majority of participants are between the ages of 15 and 19, and they usually register for cultural, leisure and non-formal educational activities as well as for consultancy services. The next largest age group is those between the ages of 25 and 30. These young people usually have a secondary or university education. Associations show participation by a high percentage of young people with a higher education. On the other hand, for Asociación JIS the average age of participants is under 24.

Table 64: Participants in youth work in Spanish municipalities**PARTICIPANTS**

	By gender		By age group			
	Male	Female	13-14	15-19	20-24	25-30
Segovia City Hall	2530	2110	1200	1800	1240	400
Cuellar Town Hall	120	115	80	75	40	40
Jovenes por la Igualdad y la Solidaridad	256	252	69	206	216	90
AFS Intercultura	761	1215	N/A	1676	N/A	350
Valladolid City Hall	1098	1587	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Local Survey for Spain, 2007

Participation of young people in cultural and extracurricular activities, consultancy and sports should be mentioned. The average education of those taking advantage of such offers is secondary or primary. Only those young people in international exchange programmes have a higher education. There is also a higher number of young people without any type of education participating mainly in cultural activities, informal education and sports. But it has to be kept in mind that this organisation works with immigrant youths.

Table 65: Participants in youth work in Spanish municipalities by activities**PARTICIPANTS BY ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMPLETE SURVEY**

Cultural youth work	590
Extracurricular youth education	380
Children and youth recreation	1907
Youth associations	150
Street work	300
Advise and youth counselling	1500
International youth work	50
Open youth work	250
Sports	1786

Source: Local Survey for Spain, 2007

Comments:

Differences between national and local level

In Spain, much like in Greece or the Netherlands, the local survey provided extensive information about youth work that was not available at national level. First of all it can be stated that although youth work structures are not well established, there is nevertheless a wide range of youth work activities. While at national level it was only possible to trace training activities for labour market insertion and youth information activities, at local level it becomes clear that the main activities provided at this level are extracurricular youth education, leisure time and recreational activities, and that labour market-oriented activities are not dominating.

Differences at local level

The activities provided in rural areas are scarcer than in urban areas, but nevertheless cultural and recreational activities, youth associations, consultancies for employment issues and sports are on offer. People working in the youth work areas are generally professionals with higher education degrees. In associations there are higher numbers of volunteers than employed youth workers. The majority of employees and volunteers are women, so that we can say that youth work in Spain is a feminised profession. The main target group of youth work in rural areas is the 13- to 19-year-olds, whereas in urban areas youth work targets young people between 15 and 19 years of age.

10.11 Comparative Overview of local findings

10.11.1 Availability of data

The central result of the present study has been to show that it is indeed possible to describe the structures of youth work at local level. The indicators we had set proved to be suitable in all countries except Ireland and Italy, and they indeed produced relevant results. We were unable to obtain quantitative data in either Ireland or Italy, primarily because of the restricted timeframe. In these two countries it was particularly difficult to identify the parties and institutions involved in youth work at local level. The people we manage to contact had no existing information at their disposal – they would therefore have had to be asked and encouraged to collect data internally. In Spain we had to describe in detail the fields of activity of youth work to the institutions we surveyed. These institutions were not familiar with the terms used, even though the activities as such may indeed have been offered.

Most of the problems we encountered with regard to data collection came up when data had to be obtained from non-public associations. As a result of these groups' volunteer-based structures, they had to be approached several times before the necessary data was provided. For Austria this is the reason for the low rate of return – 36% – while for Romania

we have no data on youth workers employed by non-public providers and in youth associations. An added difficulty here was that youth work is not recognised as a profession.

In the German municipalities covered by the survey, we encountered the additional problem that there were two sets of data at local level: data from the Bureau of Children and Youth Welfare Services Statistics and data from the local youth welfare planning structures. Data obtained at local level did not allow for a uniform classification of age groups. It was particularly interesting to note that municipalities did not always have computerised versions of the data they sent in to the national children and youth statistics bureau: in many cases the institutions had simply returned questionnaires to the state authorities for statistics, and the latter, in spite of our requests, were not willing or able to provide us with data about the municipalities.

The categorisation of participant age groups used in the study proved to be inadequate. The age range – set at 13 to 30 because of the orientation of the ‘Youth in Action’ programme – was either too narrow or too broad in Austria, the Netherlands and Romania. Austrian and Dutch respondents recommended the inclusion of 11- and 12-year-olds in the results, while in Romania no youth work is targeted to young people older than 25.

10.11.2 Comparative overview of youth work structures

The following overview summarises the main quantitative findings in a comparative perspective.

Table 66: Structures of youth work⁸⁵

Youth work structure										
	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	the Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Institutions		no data		no data	no data	no data			no data	
public	18%		11%				3%	18%		60%
non-public	18%		89%				65%			20%
semi-public	23%		0%				10%			20%
voluntary	38%		0%				0%	82%		0%
for profit	0%		0%				13%			
Main activities	no data	no data			no data	no data				
Extracurricular youth education			16%	23%			11%	28%	45%	23%
Recreation			8%	46%			19%	3%	17%	52%
Open youth work/clubs			11%	2%			12%	9%	3%	1%
Participation			45%	7%			0%	15%	0%	8%
Sports			14%	6%			47%	38%	6%	12%
Youth counselling			3%	2%			2%	0%	0%	0%
Youth information			0%	2%			0%	1%	26%	0%
Prevention of social exclusion			3%	3%			8%	6%	1%	20%
International youth work			0%	8%			0%	1%	0%	1%
Budget	public spending (43%); membership fees (26%) and miscellaneous sources (21%)	no data	€ 6.436.418 municipal funds; 0,5 to 0,7 of total municipal public budget ⁸⁶	about 11 Mio; 7,75% of the municipal budget	no data	no data	about 4,5 Mio € 30% membership fees; 25% participation fees; 17% sponsoring; 15% municipal funds	no complete data	about 450.000 € European, national and municipal funds each 1/3 of the sum	about 2,5 Mio €, 70% public funds

⁸⁵ This table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports

The following data wurde in der vorliegenden Tabelle zusammengefasst: extracurricular youth education und cultural youth work; Recreation und advised playgrounds; participation beinhaltet die Jugendverbände; prevention of social exclusion includes youth employment, youth social services, formal youth education, youth work in schools and streetwork

⁸⁶ 0,5% refers to the municipality of Lingen; 0,75% to the municipality of Lübeck

Regarding the structure of youth work the local surveys have impressively shown that in all European Countries a wide range of youth work is available at local level. In all countries we find *extracurricular youth education*. In **Romania** extracurricular youth education is the main type of youth work provided at local level (45%). In **Norway** extracurricular youth education (28%) is after sports the most common type of youth work activities. *Recreation* plays an important role in **Spain** (52%) and **Greece** (46%), as it represents a high percentage of the activities provided. *Open youth work and youth clubs* are a institutionalised component of youth work in **Austria** (38% of the institutions), in **Germany** (11%) and the **Netherlands** (12%). *Participation* plays an highlighted role in the provision of youth work at local level in **Germany** (45%). In **Ireland** and **Romania** there is a formulated need for meeting places especially for rural youngsters. *Sports* plays an extremely high role in **Austria** (93% of the institutions provide sports) and the **Netherlands** (47%), where it is in some municipalities the only accessible form of youth work. Also in **Norway** (38%) sports can be identified as one of the most common part of youth work provided at local level. The low percentage of sports documented for the other countries has its reason in the fact that sports is managed and financed by other administrative bodies than the youth services. *Youth information* is with 26% the most frequently provided youth activity in **Romania** at local level. In all other countries youth information does not represent an great percentage of the youth activities at local level, although it was highlighted in the national statistical reports in **Italy, Spain and Greece**. *International youth work* represents 8% of the youth work activities in **Greece**, in all other countries it is at local level non-existent. Youth employment services are highly represented within the **Spanish** (20%) youth work system, but are not often monitored at local level in the other countries.

In all countries it is possible to identify at least three *type of providers*: public and non-public and semi-public providers. In the **Netherlands** for-profit providers play an increasing role in the provision of youth work and in the New Public Management Strategies adopted by the municipalities. In **Austria** 38% and in **Norway** 82% of the institutions surveyed claimed to be an voluntary institution, but as most of them are youth associations they can also be classified as non-public institutions. In **Germany** the percentage of non-public associations providing youth work at local level was identified with 89%.

In all countries the municipalities fund with special budgets parts of the youth work provided at local level. In **Austria** the municipal budget covers 18% of the whole expenses for youth work, in the **Netherlands** the municipal budget form 15% of the expenses. In Greece the amount provided by the four surveyed municipalities is nearly as high as the budget of the General Secretariat for Youth. In Romania the municipalities contribute 1/3rd of the budget for youth work provided at local level. In **Spain** it is not possible to make a differentiation between the financing sources but 70% of the budget is provided by public authorities. In **Norway** it is also not possible to trace the municipal expenses for youth work as there are different sources and no clear distinction between child and youth work on the one hand and social services and youth work on the other hand.

10.11.3 Comparative overview of youth workers

Table 67: Overview about youth workers⁸⁷

Youth workers										
	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	the Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Youth workers	12%	no data	3,1%	52%	no data	no data	8%		no data	25%
female	60%		no data	52%			60%	88%	75%	63%
male	40%			48%			40%	12%	35%	37%
Qualification	no data	no data	no data		no data	no data		no data	no data	
higher education				53%			78%			31%
professional school				5%			22%			44%
no formal education				43%			0%			25%
no answer				0%			80%			81%
Status										
full-time			34%	60%			3%	88%	100%	60%
part-time			6%	4%			6%		0%	8%
other			59%	36%			91%		0%	18%
no answer			0%	0%			0%		0%	82%
Volunteers	88%	no data	96,9%	48%	no data	no data	92%	no data	no data	75%
training	71%	no data			no data	no data	37%	no data	no data	no data

In **Austria** the percentage of volunteers active in the field of youth work lies at 88% only 12% are paid youth workers. In **Germany** 97% of the youth workers were identified as volunteers. In **Greece** 52% of the youth workers are employees and 48% are volunteers. Volunteers engagement is high in youth associations but also in youth counselling and youth recreation. In the **Netherlands** and **Spain** the percentage of volunteers involved at local level is obviously higher. In the **Netherlands** 92% of the youth workers are volunteers. This has to be seen against the background that sports is the main youth work activity in some of the surveyed municipalities. In **Spain** 75% of the youth workers at local level were identified as volunteers. They are active in the associations and participate in cultural, extracurricular and leisure activities. For **Norway** the number of volunteers is not traceable.

In **Austria** there 60% female and 40% male youth workers. While in **Greece** the number of female and male employed youth workers is balanced, in the **Netherlands** and **Spain** we have about 10% more female youth workers. In **Romania** youth work is above all a female profession. The ration between female and male employed youth workers is 3/1. In **Norway** the highest percentage of female youth workers with 88% has been found.

In all countries – with the exception of the **Netherlands** and **Germany**, where many youth workers have temporary employment - most youth workers are full-time employees. In

⁸⁷ this table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports

Greece and in **Spain** 60% of the youth workers are in full-time positions, in **Norway** 88% and in **Romania** 100%.

Regarding the qualification of youth workers it has to be stated that the data is not complete. Many institutions were not able to answer that question. Nevertheless there is a trend that shows that employed staff is well qualified and has a higher or professional school education. In **Germany** data is only available in one municipality but shows that 90% of the employed youth workers have at least a professional school education. In **Greece** it has to be noted that the percentage of youth workers with no formal education falls to 7% when they are working in the educational or social service sections. In the **Netherlands** little information was recoverable about the qualification of youth workers, but it can be mentioned that one third of the volunteers are trained. If there is a training for them depends on the culture of the provider and on the tasks volunteers are dealing with. If they are demanding training is regularly provided. In **Austria** the rate of trained volunteers is with 71% very high.

10.11.4 Comparative overview about participants in youth work

Table 68: Overview about participants⁸⁸

Participants										
	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	the Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Percentage of Participants	no data		No data		no data	no data				
1st activity				Extracurricular youth education 29%			Sports 74%	Sports 39%	Extracurricular youth education 68%	Recreation 28%
2nd activity				Recreation 24%			Recreation 10%	Recreation 23%	Youth information 22%	Sports 26%
3rd activity				Open youth work/clubs 19%			Extracurricular youth education 10%	Participation/peer counselling 15%	Sports 6%	Youth counselling 22%
Participants per sex	no data		No data						no data	
female				48%			46%	44%		53%
male				52%			54%	56%		47%
Age			No data	no data					no data	
13-14years	50%						40%	25%		18%
15-19years	32%						37%	75%		50%
20-24years	13%						6%	not surveyed		20%
25-30years	5%						9%	not surveyed		12%
no answer							8%			

⁸⁸ This table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports.

In **Greece** and **Spain** recreation activities are joined by most of the participants of youth work. 50% of all participants attend recreation activities in **Greece**, 28% in **Spain** and 23% in **Norway**. Extracurricular youth education plays an important role for **Romanian** youngsters as 48% of all participants of youth work attend these activities. In the **Netherlands** sports seem to be the most highlighted youth activity (74% of all youngsters participate in sports) as well as in **Norway** where 39% of the young people participate in sports too. For the **Spanish** youngsters sports is also attractive: 26% of the youngsters participating in youth work are practicing sports.

In all countries – with the exception of **Spain** - from where data is available the percentage of girls participating in youth work is slightly higher.

In **Austria** the greatest percentage of youngsters participating in youth work falls upon the group of youngsters aged from 13 to 14 years. The age groups 15-19 and 20-25 are represented with 32% and 13%. Also in the **Netherlands** youngsters aged from 13-14 years and 14-19 years form the greatest group of participants. In **Romania** there is no data about the age groups but there are no youth work available for youngsters older than 24 years. In **Spain** and in **Norway** the main group of youngsters represented in youth work activities are young people aged from 15-19 years. In **Norway** youngster older than 18 years are not considered as target group of youth work anymore.

From **Austria** and the **Netherlands** was reported that the age groups were not captured well with the given categories as youngsters aged under 13 years were often participating in youth work too. In **Germany** only the total number of participants is traceable and even this information is not comparable because of different documentation categories.

11 Interview findings

To be able to deepen and discuss in a qualitative way the circumstances of the given databases in the different European countries, we conducted interviews with stakeholders of youth work. The findings are first of all presented for the individual countries and then summarised.

11.1 Austria

The interviewed stakeholders in Austria were

- one person involved in open youth work in the 15th district of Vienna,
- one person involved in open youth work in the 17th district of Vienna,
- one person who is a youth worker and project manager for an association focussing on socio-cultural work and mobile youth work in the 15th and 22nd districts of Vienna,
- the head of the municipal youth department in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg, and
- the person in charge of pedagogical issues in the Viennese association of youth centres.

Most of the interviewees argue that lack of networking and lack of public interest are the main reasons for the rather fragmentary and meagre availability of data on youth work in Austria. It is difficult to get comparable national data because of the different situations of youth work in the different regions or states. Furthermore, terms used in youth work often do not have a nation-wide definition. Another reason for the rather poor coverage of data on youth work in Austria is lack of interest on the part of the sponsors. There is hardly any initiative taken to improve the availability of data. According to some experts, extensive mandatory records are kept on any group wishing to receive subsidies, but this data is not used for any other purpose. Another reason given by the interviewees is that youth work does not have a sufficiently intensive lobby, especially in the media. There is not much public knowledge about youth work in general. The reason for this is partly the work itself: in open youth work it is difficult to quantify success. On the other hand, experts tend to see improvement in the legitimisation of youth work in Austria over the last decade. At regional level standards have been introduced and accepted, but on a nation-wide level there is too little networking and standards are quite far from being assimilated.

11.2 Estonia

Interviewees in Estonia were contacted through local youth work coordinators. In total, five youth workers took part in the survey (three females and two males); most of them work in local open youth centres. In one case – in a small rural town – due to the lack of staff and to

limited financial funds, the youth worker's tasks were carried out by the manager's assistant. In another case a school director of extracurricular activities was interviewed. Interviewed youth workers were aged between 24 and 37 years, and their work tenure was from 2.5 to 17 years. All of them had or were currently acquiring higher education. The youth workers were from different regions: Tallinn (the capital city), Harju county, Ida-Viru county, the western region, and Tartu.

The interviewees were asked how data concerning youth work and youth is usually acquired. The main answer was that often the terms of reference to collect and transfer data were not adequate or clear enough. Respondents argued that from their point of view it was sometimes impossible to understand how youth work had to be measured. And if they understood the indicators, youth workers doubted whether these could have a practical impact and whether data collecting based on the given criteria was justified. Interviewees wondered whether data was being collected to implement change or simply to fill out forms.

When youth workers are asked to provide data about youth work, they receive no feedback about the results of data analyses or surveys. Youth workers are therefore not very interested in surveys.

We also wanted to know from the respondents how they collect and transfer data when this is needed. The answers given showed that youth workers have many different job assignments and do not find enough time to collect data. Respondents pointed out that when they are asked for data they are mainly asked to hand out questionnaires to the young people in their activities. But the young people are just as uninterested in filling out questionnaires. In most of the cases the questionnaires ask about their leisure time activities.

When we asked about obstacles in data collection, we were told that the main obstacles were lack of time and the high workload of youth workers. Many youth workers have several jobs because of the low salaries.

We also wanted to know who was mainly responsible for data collection and data transfer in youth work facilities. We found different responsibilities in the different institutions. For example in some youth centres the chief executive was responsible, but sometimes also the chairman of the board, the manager or project manager. In other institution the work involving statistics was done by the secretary, the youth worker or the volunteers.

The study showed that usually there are two to three people in facilities that conduct surveys. Training for the data collector is usually given when there is time for it. From that we can conclude that surveys in youth work are mainly conducted by people who do not have the necessary training. Therefore the quality of the data collected in this manner may suffer (e.g. data is not objective). The young people involved are not properly informed about the importance of surveys.

11.3 Germany

The experts interviewed in Germany were

- the professor and youth researcher who did the actual survey on youth associations available in Germany,
- a researcher responsible for the national youth work services statistics,
- a representative of the management board of the German Sports Youth Federation,
- a representative of the management board of the German National Youth Federation, and
- a person responsible for youth social planning issues at local level.

The experts agree that the national youth work statistics is a good database especially for youth work that is publicly funded and performed by professionals. Nevertheless, there are some blanks regarding youth work financed from other sources, youth work done by volunteers and the whole sector of training and employment services financed by the Job Centres. Youth sport is also not included in the youth work statistics. In 1974 there was an attempt to survey the sectors of voluntarism and youth associations, but there was no acceptance for this project, as volunteers engaged in youth work were not convinced that was their task to fill statistical questionnaires. Some experts argue that the complicated system of annual reporting is not taken seriously by all institutions, so that the results are biased. In general dealing with statistics is an unpopular task.

From the point of view of the youth associations, the main constraints against a more extensive statistic review are that the membership concept of the associations are different – a difference which is especially great between religious and interest organisations. As national funds are distributed on the basis of an ancient membership key, there is no real interest to change the status quo as long as no other useful and accepted distribution system has been devised. As the last decades have witnessed severe cost cutting and other political threats endangering the continuance of youth work, experts fear further loss of ground.

But there are also other arguments. For instance, some experts mentioned that youth work is a non-formal learning sector and that it is very difficult to quantify non-formal or even informal learning processes. This is even worse when we consider that there is a great variety of youth work in Germany, and that standardisation would mean having to determine whether a particular informal youth group is part of youth work or not or whether only active members of associations are to be registered. The discussions would be endless.

Other reasons that can be identified are the lack of focus on youth policy in Germany in the last few years and the concentration of scientific surveys on actual issues like child care. Scientific research should focus on the question: “What is the contribution of youth work to

the accomplishment of youth-specific tasks”? Youth associations are especially interested in data that highlights the new cooperation structures between youth work and all-day schools. However, all these tasks need funds.

Nevertheless youth associations have taken action to improve the documentation of volunteerism. The Juleica statistics will be converted into an online database and in future there will be possibilities to differentiate between the associations. The data will be used to identify factors that exert a sustainable influence on volunteerism.

German experts believe that a European reporting system focusing on the processes and effects of lifelong learning in youth work would foster an increased visibility of informal learning processes in this sector.

11.4 Greece

The experts interviewed in Greece were

- a young member of the European Parliament,
- a prefectural counsellor of Thessaloniki and board member of the National Youth Council,
- a prefectural counsellor of the Cyclades Islands,
- a lecturer doing some research on youth studies at the University of the Aegean,
- a lecturer doing some research on youth studies at the University of Bournemouth,
- a youth expert and ex-adviser of the General Secretariat of Youth.

Although the interviewees praised several developments initiated in the youth field during the last years – by national authorities, local communities and other agents – most of them are not satisfied by the current status of youth work in the country. In particular, they believe that youth work services should assume a more prominent and comprehensive role in Greek society and that more coordinated efforts should be made in this direction.

Some of the interviewees consider the level of education / training of youth workers as unsatisfactory due to the lack of youth work-specific studies / training programmes within the Greek educational system. More specifically, as Popi Kalaitzi suggests, ‘In Greece no proper attention has been paid to youth policies, so there is no actual need for professionals who will design youth and child policies, or fully trained youth workers’.⁸⁹ Fotis Nestoras stresses that ‘Professional work with the young is in an initial stage. One could claim it does not even exist. The first to blame for this is the state, which has not given priority to this field, and in

⁸⁹ Kalaitzi, Question 11.

second place the academic community that has not realised the need and usefulness of a university department that would teach and promote research on youth affairs'.⁹⁰ In a similar context, most of the interviewees believe that the level of research in youth / youth work affairs in Greece is low. Indeed, most of the relevant surveys available (a limited number) are fragmentary. According to Mary Matsouka, one reason for this is that Greek society realised only relatively recently that '...youth must become, because of its importance, an autonomous and specialised survey and research subject'.⁹¹

Almost all interviewees agree that Greek young people do not have adequate information on existing youth work services and programmes in the country. This becomes obvious when we consider a survey of the General Secretariat for Youth conducted by the University of Athens in 2005, according to which almost 6 out of 10 young people were not aware even of the existence of the Secretariat.⁹² As Fotis Nestoras highlights '...only a small percentage of Greek youth is aware of the existing programmes at a national and local level'.⁹³

Finally, the majority of the respondents strongly suggest the need for greater efforts in the area of non-formal and informal learning. Although non-formal and informal learning is a widespread social practice in Greek youth work, they believe that the actual introduction of a comprehensive system for the identification, assessment and recognition of relevant non-formal learning outcomes has not progressed very far.

11.5 Ireland

The experts interviewed in Ireland were:

- the director of local partnership company,
- the regional chairperson of a voluntary youth work organisation,
- a lecturer in youth work,
- a local youth work manager, and
- a youth work researcher.

What emerges is a youth work system that is in transition and, in some respect, in crisis. The transition has been triggered by new legislation and new funding structures. On the other hand there is a crisis surrounding the role and function of youth work in Ireland. This arises

⁹⁰ Nestoras, Question 11.

⁹¹ Matsouka, Question 17.

⁹² General Secretariat for Youth, *I Nea Genia stin Ellada Simera* (Youth in Greece Today), University of Athens (Institute of Applied Communications), (Athens: 2005)

⁹³ Nestoras, Question 18.

from the street culture that defines the leisure and recreational pursuits of young people in Ireland. Traditional forms of youth work such as youth clubs or scouting are being severely challenged by young people's desire for freedom and autonomy. There is a connecting thread in the interviews with experts that points the way forward though engagement with the ideas that young people have about the modern world. Institutions like Dáil na nÓg are seen as not connecting with young people, because they are adult ideas taken from the adult world. But there is also a sense that a paradigm shift is beginning to take place in youth work practice. Youth cafés are emerging as a symbol of youth work's desire to modernise its practice. Professionalisation also has a major influence on modernisation. Irish youth work, nonetheless, remains a quintessentially volunteer service with all the strengths and limitations that entails.

The future will be exciting and productive if the Irish state is prepared to invest in its youth population by expanding its youth service. It appears that it is beginning to do so, but there is a lot more to do before there is an adequate youth service. Overall, young people need to be heard in all their diversity. They are citizens with full rights, and they represent Ireland's future. There can be no more important public policy issue than the future of a nation's young people. Civil society, in the shape of a committed voluntary sector, took responsibility for youth work during the 20th century. Hopefully, the state will need to be more actively engaged during the 21st century.

11.6 Italy

The experts interviewed in Italy were

- a person in charge of the school statistics from the Department of Education,
- two members of local associations,
- a ECAP employee,
- a youth desk information employee,
- a person in charge of Eurodesk, and
- a person in charge of the local employment centre.

Different issues arose from the semi-structured interviews.

A topic outlined by all interviewees is that data on youth work according to the indicators provided by the project is not available. However, this lack of data is a general problem; it is due to incomplete information technology systems as well as to the fact that although a culture of data collection is rapidly gaining ground, it still does not cover all public and private sectors. At the moment, a lot seems to be happening in the area of youth work at different levels: there are many initiatives and many ongoing public and private programmes, but at this stage there is little available data to give more information about them.

The various departments involved with youth issues (the National Department for Youth Policies and Sports, the Labour Ministry, the Ministry for Social Solidarity, the National Department of Education) are also trying to come up with innovative programmes by looking for inspiration at what is going on at European level; yet, the impression is that each of them is acting on its own. There is no common vision of all initiatives that are taking place because of lack of coordination among all the stakeholders concerned.

All these issues result in the insufficient visibility of all positive developments, which are much more than it appears. There is a need for a centralised, all-inclusive database that would give more visibility to all activities broadly linked to youth work.

Another aspect mentioned by most of the interviewees is that youth work is not well defined and doesn't draw attention as a specific field. Moreover, its actual definition is very restrictive, referring mainly to paid work or to activities leading to paid jobs.

A very important aspect that has emerged very strongly as influencing various aspects of youth work is culture; both at personal and at social level, some cultural aspects affect innovative thinking and how people take advantage of the opportunities offered by youth work.

Some respondents underlined that mobility is not yet properly valued among Italian young people, mainly because of cultural aspects – one of these being the strong link with the family and the environment. Exchange programmes could be set up by national ministries from different countries in order to encourage mobility and trans-cultural enrichment. Though limited in time, these experiences could promote personal growth and development.

It is very important to be linked to European programmes and initiatives; they give a broader perspective on youth in general, and on work opportunities in particular.

11.7 Netherlands

The experts interviewed in the Netherlands were

- a representative of the National Youth Council,
- a representative of the National Association for Youth Workers,
- a researcher specialised in youth work, who is also a lecturer in youth work,
- a researcher specialised in youth studies, who also used to act as a consultant to the joint strategy in youth research of the CoE and the EC, and
- a researcher specialised in young people of immigrant descent.

In the interviews, experts most often stressed the low political priority of youth work in the Netherlands. In contrast, several interviewees pointed out its relevance in cooperation

structures. Cooperation with the police and youth care, for example, is becoming increasingly popular, and schools are becoming the main cooperation partner for youth workers. For schools, cooperation with youth workers seems desirable for two reasons. Firstly, school children with a low affinity for formal learning might respond better to the non-formal learning environments often found in youth work contexts. Secondly, youth work activities can be offered at schools in the afternoon, thus helping all-day schools to put together an attractive programme for their students.

Beside the low political priority of youth work, the sparse funding available for it and the lack of coordination between its organisations and providers were also underlined. Respondents noted that singular flows of funds naturally lead to singular projects. In other words, where no money is earmarked for networking and coordination, networking and coordination will also find it difficult to develop. They are additionally hampered by the low profile of youth work in general, which causes remarkable differences between the offers of youth work and significant fluctuation within them.

When referring to recent changes, respondents highlighted a changed mentality. While volunteering, activation and self-organisation were still rather new concepts requiring active support a decade ago, they are common ideas nowadays. Indeed, recognition of these ideas sometimes goes so far that voluntary commitment is required and taken for granted, which casts doubts on its true voluntariness. School children, for example, are urged to engage in voluntary social activities. But it is not only school children that are roped into volunteer work: voluntary organisations themselves are also experiencing the pressure to become autonomous. Their financial support has been drastically cut in the last few years, and the remaining funding usually only serves as start-up financing. The amount of money allocated to them is, generally speaking, rather small and connected to strict bureaucratic requirements. Some of the interviewees even stated that the unfavourable ratio of funding to red tape serves as a disincentive to look for funding.

For the future, however, interviewees tended to draw a more encouraging scenario. Acknowledging the establishment of a Ministry for Youth and Families, some interviewees voiced the hope for an increasing amount of attention being paid to youth work. Whether this will indeed be the case still needs to be seen. But what the Ministry will definitely achieve is a bundling of information and decision-making.

11.8 Norway

Five informants were selected to participate in the interviews:

- the secretary-general of the Norwegian Association for Youth Clubs,
- the secretary-general of the Norwegian Youth Council,
- an adviser on child and youth sports at the Confederation of Sports,

- a researcher on voluntary youth organisations at the institute for Norwegian Social Research, and
- a researcher at Diakonhjemmet University College.

Among the five informants there are two researchers. One is an expert in voluntary work and the other on child welfare. The other three informants all work in organisations that conduct youth work. The organisations they represent are involved in different kinds of youth work. This could mean that their approaches and views on youth work are different. Together, the five informants represent the diversity of youth work in Norway.

The informants were told briefly what information had been found within their field of youth work and then asked to give reasons for the lack of information. There is some information available for some of the areas of youth work that the informants represent. For instance there is some data about child welfare and sports. Because of this the informant from Diakonhjemmet University College was not asked about reasons for the lack of available data. Nevertheless she had opinions on the quality of the existing data that will be presented in the next section. The following are the explanations for the lack of data given by the informants:

“There is a lack of databases where information is registered. The Youth Club Association has initiated research because so little research is done”⁹⁴.

“Traditionally there has been little research done on voluntary organisations. I think it is difficult to do research on voluntary organisations because they are based on voluntary work. The volunteers can not be forced to participate in research unless they want to. The government is already putting much pressure on the voluntary organisations to report statistics, and it is important that research is done in such a way that it does not put further pressure on the organisations”⁹⁵.

“It is due to the lack of resources. This is something that we need to change. We need to have more research on sports”⁹⁶.

“In the Norwegian context it is the membership that count, not the age of the member. Most voluntary organizations have members of all ages, and there is no tradition to separate the youngest members from the rest”⁹⁷.

The informants give different explanations for the lack of data on youth work. The researchers focuss on the tradition of investigating voluntary work at large, and not of

⁹⁴ Representative of the Norwegian Association for Youth Clubs

⁹⁵ Representative of the Norwegian Youth Council

⁹⁶ Representative of the Confederation of Sports

⁹⁷ Representative of Norwegian Social Research

focusing only on young people in voluntary organisations. The informant representing sports, youth clubs and youth associations believes that there is a lack of research in these areas of youth work and that there ought to be better routines for reporting relevant information. The informant from the Norwegian Youth Council adds that it is challenging to do research on voluntary organisations because the volunteers do not have the time to participate. Voluntary youth workers are interested in participation in the activities of the organisations, not in filling out forms or participating in interviews.

The informants from the Norwegian Association for Youth Clubs and the Norwegian Youth Council see research as a means to achieve more visibility for their work, and believe that more knowledge would make it easier for them to get through to policy-makers. The informants from the Confederation of Sports and from Diakonhjemmet University College are concerned with research as a means to do a better job. They have more specific wishes for what kind of research needs to be done. This could be because they represent the areas of youth work with the most available information.

11.9 Romania

In order to validate the data gathered at local level, seven interviews were conducted with people involved in youth work. There was

- one representative of the National Youth Authority, responsible for the coordination of the Department on Projects;
- one representative of the National Agency for Supporting Young Peoples' Initiative, coordinating the Department of Research on Youth;
- two youth workers within the local County Youth Departments and
- two youth workers of the local youth organisation.

In terms of the way data on youth work and youth workers is collected: the main answers were provided by the representatives of the national bodies. They mentioned that all youth activities funded through public money are reported. They did not see any problem in the way data was reported, especially the representative of the NYA, who mentioned that they were the ones who had constructed this system of reporting by designing the National Plan for Action for Youth and developed the methodology for funding youth activities. The NAY representative was not very open about talking about "youth workers", as if this did not represent a topic of discussion or interest of this institution. Many of the current NAY programs and policies focus on youth activities and on promoting these activities, but mainly by cooperating with youth NGOs. Also, their present programme of developing a network of youth centres in the whole country with qualified personnel serving in these centres was mentioned as a form of promoting youth work at national level.

A different picture arises from the interviews with the youth workers in the NGOs. It is not clear whether young people working in youth NGOs are interested in having youth work qualified or recognised as a profession. They see this as being important for people working in the state institutions responsible for youth work. The NGO sector and the people working there seem to be more interested in the projects they can develop, how to get funding for them and how to reach as many young people as possible. They are very proud of their achievements in terms of years working in the area, numbers of young people participating in their activities, networks created and young people trained. They know a lot about local youth issues, about the situation of youth organisations at local level and the relationship with local and national authorities for youth. As they are usually certified by different international institutions, their interest in having youth work certified as a profession at national level is not particularly high.

The youth workers at the County Youth Departments are, in most cases, the ones interested in having their position clarified as a profession. As most of them have a long experience in working with young people, their certification as “professionals” might come a bit too late. Worker certification and recognition of youth work as a profession will be more important for future youth workers or young people starting to be involved in youth activities and youth organisations, as it will give them more professional stability.

With regard to funding of youth activities: the national representatives mentioned that youth activities and youth policies, in general, do not get a lot of attention and consequently too little public funding. Young people and policies for youth are promoted and supported, but not enough or not so much as not to have complaints about it. At the local level, youth workers in both public institutions and NGOs complained about “under-funding” and also about lack of staff for activities in the public sector.

A problem regarding youth activities and youth action in Romania was the politicisation of the field and bad management of funds in the past, things that put youth activities and some youth institutions in a bad light. As a result, NGOs had little trust in the state institutions and also difficulty in communicating with them to promote legislation or other important issues. In short, the problem of state-NGO collaboration in the area of youth activities still exists and it shows how problematic the relationship is: in some areas and some parts of the country it works well, in other there are misunderstandings and lack of cooperation and trust. This would be one of the important issues to be managed differently in the future.

With regard to visibility of the field and activities: especially youth workers, both from public organisations and NGOs, saw this as an important result of their activities and were eager to mention that every time they were successful in helping a new organisation to be formed or bringing one difficult project to an end, seeing the interest and satisfaction of the young people taking part in the activities and programmes made up for all the difficulties they had to face in securing money, putting up proposals to different funding bodies, or lack of resources and sometimes time. They also mentioned the problem that rural young people do not have a lot of facilities or programmes dedicated to them, opportunities to start voluntary work or be

members in organisations, or access to information, resources, and facilities. But, at the same time, youth workers seem very well integrated within the local community, known by high-school pupils, students' organisations or other youth organisations.

All of them express high hopes that now that the National Authority for Youth is once again part of the Ministry of Education and Research, maybe the problems of young people and coordination with the formal education system will be better.

11.10 Spain

The experts interviewed in Spain were

- two youth workers (a social worker and a social educator),
- a representative of the trade unions,
- two members of local associations,
- a researcher specialising in youth issues, and
- two members of Youth Information Services (YIS).

The interviews lasted an average of 20 minutes. The aim of these interviews was to validate the data gathered at local level, and we followed the provided script on the indicators for the statistic survey.

The results obtained indicate that there is a lack of awareness on the concept of "youth work." This concept is seen as a complex range of poorly defined activities aimed at young people. In many cases there are problems in fitting the youth activities performed into the set of indicators provided. The interviews with the youth trainers illustrated the problem of understanding the concept of "youth work", as many of the proposed activities overlapped and were not well defined, particularly where a cultural activity also included formal and informal educational activities. The majority of the experts interviewed agreed in noting that youth work in Spain has had a delayed tradition and in general tends to correspond to consultancy and job search activities, informal educational activities in elementary and secondary schools, along with sports, which play the leading role in Spanish youth work.

Interviewees also highlighted the lack of youth policies in Spain. The key explanation for this shortage is Spain's Catholic tradition, which has played a leading role in youth work through its parochial schools. With the creation of the modern welfare state after the Franco regime, youth work disappeared within the political goals of the newly created welfare state. It was not until the eighties that youth policies were brought up and youth councils created within the city councils. This socio-political context can help us understand the difficulties of the youth trainers we interviewed when they were asked to place and define their concept of "youth work."

Moreover, respondents referred to the lack of data on youth work as one of the key problems faced when working in this field, since they do not know the demands or needs of the young people with regard to the type of work they do. Another key factor that came up again and again is the culture of familism in Spanish society. Spanish youth present a unique aspect in comparison to young people in other European countries: a delayed emancipation from the family. Spanish youth live in a concept of familism where the families are in charge of resolving the main problems confronting their younger members, including education, unemployment, access to housing, etc. They are therefore slow in being incorporated into the individualism paradigm defined by Beck and Bauman, where young people confront social risks by designing paths and individual biographies of the "liquid society". For those interviewed, a culture of familism along with the Catholic tradition were two of the most common reasons for the lack of youth participation in youth work activities.

11.11 Summary of Interview Findings

If we put together the information surveyed in the different countries, the following four key issues can be identified as the main reasons for the limited availability of youth work data:

The first issue is **recognition**. In all countries the argument was mentioned that youth policy and especially youth work is not a highlighted issue. In countries like **Greece**, **Spain**, and even **Ireland**, experts ask for greater efforts in establishing and improving youth work structures. This also includes the fact that in many countries youth work is not well enough established as a profession. Education and training of youth workers is sometimes unsatisfactory. In **Romania** youth work is not recognised as a profession. Recognition is an issue even in countries with well operating systems of youth work like **Austria** and **Germany**, as in the last decade much emphasis has been given to reforming formal education systems or to other cost-intensive sectors like child care.

The second issue concerns **funding**. To have a well established reporting system requires funds. Experts argued that volunteers are not interested in documentation. Thus data about youth work within the scope of youth associations is difficult to survey. Youth work structures that rely strongly upon volunteerism, such as those in **Ireland**, have greater difficulties in documenting the work and their structures. But monitoring costs money too. In the **Netherlands** cost cutting has stopped all documentation work on the national youth association. In **Germany** the national youth association also argues that additional documentation tasks can be realised only with supplementary funds.

The third issue is **know-how**. In general experts said that there is no tradition of monitoring and documentation in youth work. There are many uncertainties regarding concepts and indicators, and professional communication needs to be improved. In **Estonia** basic skills for research at local level are missing. In **Greece** and **Spain** experts emphasise the lack of a conceptual definition of youth activities. But in **Austria** and **Germany** too, experts argue that there is no tradition in defining the processes and outcomes of non-formal learning processes in youth work. Furthermore, the great variety of youth activities on offer requires

intensive work to define common categories. In all countries of the survey experts want to see more research done on youth-related issues.

The fourth issue is **visibility**. Visibility is a prerequisite for recognition: the outcomes of youth work need to be better transported and better perceived by the public, by professionals and by policy-makers. Experts agree that youth work is not visible enough, sometimes even for the young people that make up its target groups or for the professionals themselves, like in **Greece and Italy**. In **Austria** the lack of networking between professionals was identified as one of the main reasons for lack of data. One **German** expert argued: “We have always been youth educators, but how can we make this comprehensible”?

12 Recommendations

The present study on ‘the socio-economic scope of youth work in Europe’ represents a first, crucial step in an effort to systematise and disseminate data on youth work and youth work structures, youth workers and youth work participants across Europe.

The central result of the present study can be summarised as follows: whereas it is possible to represent large sectors of local-level youth work in quantitative terms, generating this data at national level is possible only in a few of the European countries surveyed. The main reason for this situation is the application of the subsidiarity principle and the subordinate position of youth work within the scope of political action. This means that national management of this field is perceived as largely unnecessary, and as a result most of the countries surveyed see little need for national documentation and analysis of youth work data.

Beyond this main result, the study has led to a number of further discoveries at various levels of the issue:

- The main fields of action of youth work have been identified and defined;
- A first set of basic indicators have been established for comparative national reporting;
- Light has been shed on the reasons for the absence of data at national level; and
- Indicators have been developed and applied to reflect youth work at local level.

An expert meeting to discuss the central points and results of the present study was held in Strasbourg on 18 June; it yielded valuable ideas and proposals for recommendations.

Because of the different national historical contexts and as a result of its orientation to the various life situations of its target groups, youth work is a complex and diverse field suffering from a lack of basic definitions and indicators that could serve as a basis for common reporting. There is therefore a need for

- working more intensely on defining and systematising the relevant concepts,
- establishing central indicators
- clarifying the basis for systematising the documentation of youth work from a European perspective, and

- further strengthening the existing national and European networks on youth knowledge and intensifying the cooperation between them⁹⁸.

Recommendation 1

We therefore recommend:

- increased exchanges between experts in the field to intensify and bundle shared knowledge, particularly with regard to the central concepts of youth work; for this purpose it is recommended to set up national networks on youth knowledge where they don't exist and to further strengthen the existing networks on European level
- intensified debate among experts to explore how useful data might be gathered on the condition of the field of youth work and its socio-economic effects, and agreement on relevant indicators needed for this purpose

Because youth work is basically a local issue, and because there is therefore little need for management and data collection at national level, youth work continues to be poorly documented at national level. There is therefore a need for

- increased coordination with regard to information management between local, state, national and European or international levels.

Recommendation 2

As a result, we recommend:

- increased exchanges with the competent, in some cases newly established national ministries to prepare for the creation of a European reporting system on youth work, and
- in this context ensuring that local levels are involved, adequately visible and represented,
- support the data collection of the national correspondents to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy; for this purpose it is recommended to set up national networks on youth knowledge composed by researchers, policy makers and practitioners

⁹⁸ For the moment three European networks on Youth Knowledge exist: the network of Experts on a Better Knowledge and Youth Research and the Network of Correspondents to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy both coordinated by the Partnership on Youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Since two years the European Commission set up the European Network of Youth Knowledge (EuNYK). For additional information please view issue 6 of the Partnership Newsletter. Available at:
http://www.youth-knowledge.net/system/galleries/download/portal/newsletter/YP_News_Nov06.pdf

Target group orientation is another reason why youth work is such a highly diverse field distributed among many competencies. While a number of individual fields of activity can be clearly allocated to youth work and identified as such, others, for instance youth sport, youth vocational counselling and certain areas of salutogenesis are not so clear-cut. There is therefore a need for

- more intensive cooperation between fields of activity and stakeholders.

Recommendation 3

As a result, we recommend:

- stronger cooperation among stakeholders, particularly governments, youth associations and perhaps also professional groups to contribute to a common documentation of youth work, and
- more intensive cooperation among the various sectors to identify and document those fields of activity of youth work that, as a result of differences in national traditions, are not sufficiently visible and cannot be clearly allocated to youth work.

The following steps were identified at the expert workshop as being possibly useful towards implementing these requirements:

- encouraging a greater involvement of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy regarding the collection of data the development of respective methods and the dissemination of the results of various investigations and of relevant data;
- promoting a more intensive professional debate on the definition of concepts and the identification of indicators at national, European and international level, and
- completing data collection work so as to obtain the data shown by the present survey to be missing, to expand the existing, for instance with regard to social indicators of users of youth work, and, last but not least, to integrate more countries than those included in the present study in the European documentation of youth work.

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