



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Government Offices  
of Sweden

FACT SHEET

Ministry of Integration and  
Gender Equality

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# The Swedish Government's youth policy

Swedish national youth policy is directed at the approximately 1.4 million Swedish inhabitants who are between the ages of 13–25. The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, headed by Ms Nyamko Sabuni, is responsible for the coordination and follow-up of this youth policy.

## A cross-sectoral youth policy, aimed at giving young women and men genuine access to influence and welfare

Swedish national youth policy is cross-sectoral and encompasses all policy areas of relevance to youth.

The overarching objectives are that:

- all young people are to have genuine access to influence, and
- all young people are to have genuine access to welfare

A youth perspective is mainstreamed in relevant policy areas on the basis of these overarching objectives. A central priority that has been emphasised by the Government in recent budget bills is also to counteract the social exclusion of young people.

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

- Education
- Employment
- Culture and leisure
- Participation
- Health and security

## A knowledge-based youth policy and a systematic cross-sectoral follow up

The collection, analysis and dissemination of knowledge on the conditions of young people are fundamental to Swedish youth policy. The National Board for Youth Affairs produce a number of reports that are used by the Government in setting priorities in youth policy. These include the annual compilation of some 80 indicators of development with regard to the conditions of young people, an annual in-depth

analysis of a priority topic and a study of attitudes and values among young people that is conducted every four years.

Academic research also plays an important role in the knowledge-based youth policy. The Swedish Government has assigned to the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS) responsibility for the coordination of Swedish child and youth research.

## Involvement in international cooperation

Sweden participates in international cooperation within the youth field primarily within the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The main objectives, priorities and points of departure of youth policy at the national level also guide Sweden's international work in the youth field.

## Improving the conditions of life of young people through a wide range of initiatives

The Swedish Government works actively to improve the conditions of life of young women and men through a wide range of measures in the prioritised areas of work. The future direction of youth policy will be described in a new strategy for youth policy which is to be finalised within the Government Offices during 2009. Examples of recent measures within the field of youth policy are outlined below.

### Increasing participation among young people, through:

- promotion of voluntary activities among young people and young people's organisations
- support for local actors working on youth influence
- consultations with representatives for youth organisations and other relevant actors

### **Creating the necessary conditions for cultural and leisure activities by, with and for young people, through:**

- government appropriations for cultural activities in schools
- financing for young people's sports activities
- increased knowledge about young people's use of media

### **Strengthening the empowerment of young people through education and training, through:**

- a three-year initiative to address gender differences within the school system
- extensive reforms within the educational field aimed at making it easier for all students to achieve the knowledge requirements
- investing in apprenticeship-training and strengthening the links between education and the labour market

### **Making it easier for young people to become established in the labour market and preventing social exclusion, through:**

- lowering employer's fees for the employment of youth
- granting additional tax-relief for the employment of young people who have been unemployed for 6 months
- providing young people with intensified support at an early stage of unemployment through a special labour-market policy programme
- initiating in-depth analyses of the situation for young people in a districts that are marked by social exclusion
- a law that requires municipalities to follow up on young people who are not participating in education or the labour market

### **Promoting the health of young people, through:**

- improving access to mental health care for young people
- establishing a youth guidance centre on the Internet
- creating action plans for combating men's violence against girls and young women and for combating prostitution and trafficking
- initiating a study on the sexual exploitation of children and youth on the Internet, and certain preventative measures

### **Important actors in the youth sector**

Some of the most important actors in the youth sector in Sweden are the National Board for Youth Affairs – a government agency responsible for the implementation of national youth policy, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – an umbrella organisation for youth NGO:s, and the municipalities and regions.



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