



# INFORMATION TEMPLATE

## ON

# SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## In Finland



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# 1. The socio-economic situation of young people

## 1.1 Please inform which groups of the young people are perceived as being socially excluded. What are the main factors for being socially excluded as a young person in your country?

According to the Finnish Youth Research Society & Network, the definition of those who are socially excluded (in Finnish *syrjäytyneet*) cannot in its entirety be defined and described by numbers, indicators and statistics<sup>1</sup>. How one defines social exclusion is culturally and essentially socially defined: what is it that we as society value most? This poses methodological questions for the research on social exclusion of young people, as different instances require qualitative versus quantitative research and methods. Nevertheless, though social exclusion at least in the academic realm is a contested concept, in practice it is necessary to define these young people in order to prevent them from becoming socially excluded and/or to help them re-engage with society.

The Audit Committee of the Finnish Parliament uses the definition of Silver (1994) for social exclusion in their report<sup>2</sup>. They also express their concern on the difficulty of defining the socially excluded, but refer to the definition that is mainly used in the Finnish public discourse, i.e. that of Pekka Myrskylä. Myrskylä defines socially excluded young people as those who have completed at maximum the basic compulsory education (roughly until the age of 16) but who do not work or study<sup>3</sup>. Essentially these are young people characterized as NEETs (not in education, employment or training). Therefore, in Finnish public discourse it is those young people outside of employment and education, and who have only completed compulsory education, that are seen as socially excluded. According to Myrskylä, the number of young people between the ages of 15-29 who fill these criteria in 2012 was 51 341 (5% of the population). The statistics below give an idea of what factors may affect the social exclusion of a young person.

### 15-29 year olds

Total of 1 005 927 persons

Socially excluded: 51 341 persons (5 %)

#### Of the socially excluded

Unemployed but seeking employment 18 830

Others 32 511

Men 64 % (32 871)

Women 36 % (18 470)

Native population 77 %

Foreign population 23 % (11 850)

#### Of the socially excluded men

Native population (Finnish *kantaväestö*) 78 % (25 662)

Foreign population (Finnish *vieraskielisiä*) 22 % (7 209)

#### Of the socially excluded women

Native population 75 % (13 829)

Foreign population 25 % (4 641)

#### Those with only basic education

Total of 407 942

Socially excluded 51 300 (12,6 %)

<sup>1</sup> "Nuoria koskeva syrjäytymistieto. Avauksia tietämisen politiikkaan.", 2009, edited by Leena Suurpää, published by the Finnish Youth Research Society

<sup>2</sup> <http://web.eduskunta.fi/dman/Document.phx?documentId=jz32213140909180>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eva.fi/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Syrjaytyminen.pdf>

**Those of the native population with only basic education who are socially excluded**

13 % of men

8 % of women

**Those of the foreign population with only basic education who are socially excluded**

33 % of men

26 % of women

However, these statistics do not of course give the perfect picture of who the socially excluded youth are: for example, women with basic education who are taking care of their children at home are not considered to be socially excluded in these statistics, but are still outside the labour force.

According to this report that Myrskylä wrote for EVA (Finnish Business and Policy Forum) social exclusion seems to be a problem for young men, especially those of the foreign population with only basic education. However, the difference between men and women does not tell the whole story: as mentioned, women who are taking care of their children at home are not considered to be socially excluded. The great difference between the native and foreign population however demonstrates the difference in access to education and the labour market. Therefore, from this report it seems that factors such as gender and immigrant background can be important for becoming socially excluded. In more general terms the report refers to the fact that education, family background, and marital status have some sort of effect on the probability of a young person being or becoming socially excluded.

On the other hand, Myrskylä's report for EVA does not take into consideration the potential damaging effect of substance abuse, criminal activity and mental health issues with regards to social exclusion. This is due to the fact that reliable statistics on these sorts of phenomena are not readily available. Indeed, these young people are often not accessible through surveys, but require often more qualitatively based research. However, the fact that these young people are harder to reach does not diminish the fact that they may be socially excluded as well, and that their experiences may differ largely from the "general socially excluded population".

**1.2 Please provide the percentage representing the share of young people (18-24) who are at risk of poverty (and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity).**

**Please compare it to the general population risk of poverty rate. What is the trend in your country – is the rate growing etc.?**

\*All the statistics below are from the EUROSTAT database.

For some of the indicators, there was no specific category for 18-24 year olds. In these cases, the closest possible category was used, e.g. 15-24 year olds and 20-24 year olds.

**Young people at risk of poverty in Finland (as % of total population)**

Age	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
15-24	18.6	20.5	20.7	20.6	21.8	21.7	22	21.4	20.4	19
20-24	22.5	27.6	25.8	25.4	28.7	26.7	28.3	28.2	27.6	24.6

**At risk of poverty rate in Finland (% of total population), cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers**

Age	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
18-24	21.6	24.4	24.1	23.8	26.2	26.2	26.8	26.5	24.9	22.5
18-64	9.9	10.5	11.2	11.5	11.8	12.2	12.3	12.8	12.4	11.3
Total	11.0	11.7	12.6	13.0	13.6	13.8	13.1	13.7	13.2	11.8

### People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Finland (as % of total population)

Age	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
18-24	28.1	31.0	28.7	26.9	30.0	28.7	30.9	30.5	29.4	28.0
18-64	17.4	17.2	16.8	16.8	16.5	16.2	17.1	18.0	17.3	16.7
Total	17.2	17.2	17.1	17.4	17.4	16.9	16.9	17.9	17.2	16.0

As can be seen from the statistics above, there is a difference between being at risk of poverty when one is young vs. in general. In general, it seems that young people have double the “at risk of poverty rate” to those at working age (18-64) or the population in general: for example, in 2013 the rate for 18-24 year olds was 22.5% of the total population, while the rate for 18-64 year olds was 11.3% and the rate for the population in general was 11.8%.

The trends however seem to be similar for the different indicators, with a rise in the rate from 2005-2011, and a recent decline. However, when looking at young people specifically, and age groups within them, there seems to be more fluctuation from year to year, with the at risk of poverty rate being higher when only looking at 20-24 year olds compared to the age range of 15-24 year olds. This might be explained by the fact that the 15-24 age range includes more young people who are likely to still live at home. For example, according to Eurostat, only 28.7% of young people in Finland between the ages of 20 and 24 were still living with their parents in 2012; the same statistic for 16-19 year olds is 94.7%.

The statistics below are an alternative way of measuring poverty and deprivation among young people. The difference is that these people are already considered to belong to this underprivileged group, while the statistics before also referred to those who are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion.

### Severe material deprivation of young people in Finland (as % of total population)

Age	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
15-24	6.5	7	6.7	6.2	5.2	4.1	4	4.2	4.6	-
20-24	7.3	8.9	8.4	6.8	6.3	5	4.8	4.1	5	-

### Severe material deprivation rate in Finland (as % of population)

Age	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
18-24	7.2	8.2	8.2	6.8	6.1	4.8	4.5	4.5	5.1	5.0
18-64	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.1
Total	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.6	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.5

### Young people living in households with very low work intensity in Finland (as % of total population) \*ages 18-59

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
15-24	8.6	9.7	8.1	6.3	5.8	7.6	9	7.7	7.3
20-24	10.5	12.8	9.7	7.7	7.1	8.8	10.3	8.6	9.4

### Households (ages 18-59) with very low work intensity in Finland (as % of total population)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Without dependent children	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.5
With dependent children	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.7

### 1.3 Has an impact of the current financial crisis on young people been observed in your country?

The most recent economic and financial crisis is seen to have started in late 2007/2008. Looking at the time period 1987-2010, the number of socially excluded young people has been on the decline according to Myrskylä. Furthermore, according to Liisa Larja the number of unemployed young people does not fully describe the actual situation of young people, as the populations of unemployed can largely differ from country to country. For example, in one country the majority of unemployed youth may actually be students, like in Finland where 50% of unemployed youth are students<sup>4</sup>.

Nevertheless, with regards to young people's access to social rights, discrimination and economic exclusion it is hard to say exactly what effect the current crisis has had specifically on young people. Furthermore, because the crisis is still on going and rather fresh, statistical analyses on such a short period of time may not tell us much before the crisis is over. However, there have been some measures taken during the crisis that specifically target young people, such as the Youth Guarantee, though this is a response to a problem that existed before the crisis as well<sup>5</sup>. Nevertheless, cuts in public spending and rising living costs mean an impact especially on services for young people such as affordable housing, healthcare, and quality education. Surprisingly enough though, expenditure on youth work has not decreased, though rising prices and costs may impact the range and quality of youth work that young people can access. In fact, in 2014, 74.5 million euros were allocated to youth work. This means a growth of 0.4 million euros allocated to youth work from the previous year<sup>6</sup>. The trend actually seems to be the opposite to what one would expect, with more money being allocated to youth work from the government's budget every year since the economic and financial crisis started<sup>7</sup>.

Furthermore, during the crisis the student grant distributed by Kela (independent social security institution supervised by the Finnish Parliament) has finally been adjusted so that the amount of the grant will rise with rising living costs. However, it is important to remember that even so, the student grant alone does not often cover living costs, forcing students to work as they study or take out student loans. For more information on the student grant system visit: <http://www.kela.fi/web/en>.

Lastly, discrimination felt by young people at the workplace seems to have increased from 6% of young people (under 30 years of age) feeling discriminated against based on their age in 1997, to 8% in 2013<sup>8</sup>. The rise in discrimination felt by young people is contrasted by a drop in discrimination felt by those over the age of 50. However, this only gives us the situation of young people in employment – what is harder to determine is whether young people are discriminated when applying for work or being let go from work.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.stat.fi/artikkelit/2013/art\\_2013-03-11\\_002.html?s=0#3](http://www.stat.fi/artikkelit/2013/art_2013-03-11_002.html?s=0#3)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2013/liitteet/The\\_Youth\\_Guarantee\\_in\\_Finland.pdf?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2013/liitteet/The_Youth_Guarantee_in_Finland.pdf?lang=en)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.alli.fi/edunvalvonta/nuorisotyön+rahoitus/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://valtioneuvosto.fi/toiminta/talousarvio/fi.jsp>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.stat.fi/til/tyoolot/2013/02/tyoolot\\_2013\\_02\\_2014-05-15\\_tie\\_001\\_fi.html](http://www.stat.fi/til/tyoolot/2013/02/tyoolot_2013_02_2014-05-15_tie_001_fi.html)

## 2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion

### 2.1 Social subsistence/ protection and health cover for young people living in poverty

The kind of benefits and services a young person has access to with regards to subsistence, protection and health cover depends on the status (often overlapping) of the young person: whether they are employed or unemployed, whether they study or don't study, whether they have children or not, whether they are disabled or not, the family background, etc. Nevertheless, those living in poverty are a very diverse group of people, including students, unemployed (frictionally or structurally), single parents, etc.<sup>9</sup> Most benefits are distributed by Kela, but local social services also play their part by providing temporary social assistance, help with housing, etc. Young people from the age of 16 are also entitled to sickness allowance if they are unable to work due to illness. Potential provisions include:

- Student benefits
- Housing allowance
- Social assistance
- Sickness allowance
- Unemployment benefit
- Conscripts allowance (and other armed service benefits)
- Financial assistance for families (e.g. maternity grant, child benefits, etc.)
- Disability allowance
- Rehabilitation allowance
- Medicine expenses
- etc.

What a poor young person gets really depends on their specific situation, as well as overlapping statuses they may have. For example, a student is only allowed to earn a certain amount of income for every month they get a study grant. Furthermore, the size of such grants and benefits may depend on parents' income in some cases, spouse's income, the number of children, etc.

Young people just as any others are also entitled to public health care, but may also be under a healthcare scheme through their employment or study place; in addition most schools have their own nurses and even psychologists. An example of a service specifically for young people is the student healthcare service which on top of providing basic healthcare and dental services also concentrates on issues that are especially important for young people with limited resources such as sexual health and mental healthcare; it does not however, provide emergency health assistance. For more information, please visit:

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health  
<http://www.stm.fi/en/frontpage>

Kela  
<http://www.kela.fi/web/en>

Finnish Student Health Service  
<http://www.yths.fi/en>

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<sup>9</sup><http://www.taloussanomati.fi/tyo-ja-koulutus/2011/03/13/katso-keneen-koyhyys-sattuu-pahimmin/20113496/139>

## 2.2 Measures to meeting the medical Care needs of Young people at risk of social exclusion

On top of basic provisions for healthcare, there are also some measures and studies that are targeted specifically at young people, especially those at risk of becoming socially excluded. One such example related to health is the Helsinki City Sports Department's initiative based on the government's Youth Guarantee, which is the "Youth Societal Guarantee" (in Finnish *Nuorten Yhteiskuntatakuu NYT*)<sup>10</sup>. The Youth Societal Guarantee aims to make exercise more accessible to young people, by providing free exercise opportunities around the city of Helsinki. The goal of the programme, running from 2013-2016 is to encourage young people to pay more attention to their health and wellbeing as well as how much they exercise. Primarily the programme is targeted at those unemployed young people between the ages of 17 and 29 who are currently excluded from sports and exercise, as the number of such young people has been increasing recently.

However, Helsinki city's initiative is only one example. On a more national scale, The Mannerheim League for Child Welfare<sup>11</sup> participated in a campaign for the years 2014-2015 titled "Eat Well" (in Finnish *Syö Hyvää*) with the aim of engaging young people into thinking about their eating habits. They specifically encouraged young people's own participation in the campaign with a heavy focus on social media. The campaign also has differing foci, with the Fall 2014 part of the campaign concentrating on 13-18 year old boys<sup>12</sup>. What these two examples show is that there are also preventive measures in improving the health of young people, such as the promotion of eating well and the importance of exercise. This is to make sure that young people's medical care needs would be smaller in the future.

At the research level, young people's health is also something that is paid attention to. For example, the biannual report put together by The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora), the Finnish Youth Research Network and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) aim to collect information on young people's living conditions<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) conducted a study between 2007 and 2009 concerning how to develop health services for young people, by interviewing 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents while the children were having their health check ups<sup>14</sup>. The study is now also longitudinal, as THL also conducted a survey in 2013 that was sent to all those young people who participated in 2007-2009. This study has been a valuable asset in considering the medical care needs of young people, especially when they are still in school.

## 2.3 Measures to re-engage the young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)

The definition of young people who are socially excluded in Finnish public discourse has a direct link to the concept of NEET as described earlier. As a result, the Finnish government's recent development, "The Youth Guarantee" can also be seen as one that specifically targets NEETs. The Youth Guarantee is a policy initiative that will offer every person under the age of 25, as well as recent graduates under the age of 30, a study place, an employment, a place in on-the-job training or rehabilitation within 3 months after becoming unemployed. The goal of the Youth Guarantee is to promote the inclusion of young people by helping them back into education, employment or

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.hel.fi/www/uutiset/fi/liikuntavirasto/nuorten+yhteiskuntatakuu+-hanke+houduttelee+nuoria+liikkumaan>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mll.fi/en/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://syohyvaa.fi/mannerheimin-lastensuojeluliitto-puhuu-nuorille/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/en/research/youth-living-conditions-yearbooks>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.thl.fi/en/tutkimus-ja-asiantuntijatyo/vaestotutkimukset/lasten-ja-nuorten-terveysseurantatutkimus-late>



training; developing youth services to promote social inclusion; and creating a context where young people can give feedback for the services provided for them. While the Youth Guarantee is targeted at all young Finns, it makes a specific point about reintroducing those young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) back into society. However, it can also be seen as a preventive measure to reduce the number of NEETs in the future.

For more information on the Youth Guarantee:

[http://www.nuorisotakuu.fi/en/youth\\_guarantee](http://www.nuorisotakuu.fi/en/youth_guarantee)

## **2.4 Measures to ensure access to decent housing for young people at risk of social exclusion**

The issue of accessibility to housing has been made part of the Government's strategy. The Development Programme for Child and Youth Policy 2012-2015 has a specific section titled "Strateginen tavoite 6: Nuorilla on mahdollisuus asua ja elää itsenäisesti" (= Strategic goal 6: young people have the chance to live independently)<sup>15</sup>. This goal refers specifically to the fact that young people should have access to decent housing. The suggested implementation includes concentrating on grants for housing investment with a focus on youth homelessness and preventing social exclusion, increasing the availability of student housing, continuing the programmes targeted at young people with intellectual disabilities, and enhancing supportive, independent living for young people. In addition, the programme points out that student dorms' quality and safety should be looked at. Another preventive measure for social exclusion is to teach young people how to live independently, so that financial issues do not force them into social exclusion.

The Government also has a specific programme targeting long-term homelessness, which also refers specifically to youth homelessness. PAAVO II is a programme running from 2012-2015 (following a similar programme PAAVO I that ran from 2008-2011), which aims to reduce the amount of long-term homeless people in Finland<sup>16</sup>. The programme has the very ambitious goal of making long-term homelessness in Finland a part of history. The programme mainly concentrates on how to produce more affordable housing, as well as the methods through which homelessness has been handled in Finland so far. With regards to youth homelessness, the programme brings together municipalities, NGOs, and churches under a project titled "Youth Homelessness Prevention Project". The coordination of the project is done by the Finnish Youth Housing Association<sup>17</sup>. The project includes increasing affordable housing that is specifically targeted at young people (approx. 600 living spaces) as well as an attempt to support at least 500 young people in finding housing and guiding them with independent living.

In the end, housing is a very important part of being socially included. Homelessness can negatively affect one's employment and study prospects, as well as physical and mental wellbeing. Therefore, the government sees the need to tackle long-term homelessness; while no one in Finland has to live without a roof over his or her head, the solutions so far have been more temporary. The government is now focusing with this programme in moving towards independent housing for the long-term homeless, with a specific focus on young people. This specific focus is to prevent social exclusion at such an early age, as well as the increasing number of young homeless people: in 2013, the total number of homeless people in the city of Helsinki was 4100 – of these 1 100 were under the age of 25.

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<sup>15</sup> [http://www.okm.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/nuorisopolitiikka/Kehittamisohjelma\\_2012-2015/?lang=en](http://www.okm.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/nuorisopolitiikka/Kehittamisohjelma_2012-2015/?lang=en)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.asuntoensin.fi/asunto\\_ensin/paavo-verkostokehittajat/paavo-ohjelma](http://www.asuntoensin.fi/asunto_ensin/paavo-verkostokehittajat/paavo-ohjelma)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.nal.fi/en/youth+homelessness+prevention+project/>

## 2.5 Measures addressing the social integration of young people with disabilities

The question of targeting the social integration of young people with disabilities is mainly taken into consideration in the Child and Youth Policy Development Programme for 2012-2015 under the concept of equality of opportunities. In Finland, young people with disabilities have the same right as any other young people to secondary and tertiary education. While the number of disabled young people in secondary and tertiary education has been steadily increasing, they are still more likely than their non-disabled counter parts to be less educated<sup>18</sup>. They also have the right to be employed just as any other Finn. In the Development Programme, young people with disabilities are mentioned in several instances. Firstly, the introduction makes the point that equality and equity should both be taken into consideration so that each young person regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc. has the same opportunities. For example, the programme mentions that in the implementation of these principles of equality and equity, the difficulty of disabled youth in finding on-the-job training should be given further attention. Furthermore, the programme specifically mentions the need to make sure that the Youth Guarantee as well as the Youth Societal Guarantee also reach young people with disabilities. Key areas to develop according to the programme are communication, ensuring accessibility (in all meanings of the word), and providing sufficient support and assistance.

There are also organisations that specifically assist young people with disabilities, such as The Vamlas Foundation, which aims to help children and youth with disabilities<sup>19</sup>. Vamlas, as many other organisations targeting youth, is funded by RAY (Finland's Slot Machine Association), a public corporation whose profits are redirected to war veterans and non-governmental organisations. Approximately €300 million is distributed annually to non-profit organisations. The strategy through which RAY distributes this money includes creating a safe environment where children and young people can grow and develop, as well as specifically targeting enhanced physical and social wellbeing.

For more information on RAY, please visit:

<http://www2.ray.fi/en/social-responsibility-1/revenue-for-finnish-welfare>

[http://www2.ray.fi/sites/default/files/Avustukset/Avustusten%20hakeminen/Avustusstrategia\\_2012-2015.pdf](http://www2.ray.fi/sites/default/files/Avustukset/Avustusten%20hakeminen/Avustusstrategia_2012-2015.pdf)

## 2.6 The contribution of youth work (and youth centres) to social inclusion of young people

The Finnish institutional framework is very decentralised: essentially, the Ministry of Education distributes funding as well as guidelines for youth work in the form of the Child and Youth Policy Programme. In addition however, municipalities also have the right to tax its residents, and essentially implement the guidelines provided by the Ministry. However, while these guidelines exist, municipalities have the right to implement the programme, as well as guidelines in the Youth Act as they please. Essentially each municipality and locality can then have their own programme targeting youth. This allows each municipality to take into consideration the issues most important to that specific area: for example, youth homelessness is a much larger issue in Helsinki than other parts of Finland.

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.luovi.fi/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Vammaisten\\_ja\\_pitkaaikaissairaiden\\_nuorten\\_aktiivinen\\_osallisuus\\_FI.pdf](https://www.luovi.fi/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Vammaisten_ja_pitkaaikaissairaiden_nuorten_aktiivinen_osallisuus_FI.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.vamlas.fi/saatio/tausta/>

Therefore, youth work and youth centres are an integral part of the government's strategy for youth. One such initiative is "outreach youth work": "The purpose of outreach youth work is to help those under 29-year-old young people who are outside education or labour market, and who need support to reach public sector services or with committing to an available service, or who are at risk of social exclusion."<sup>20</sup> Outreach youth work can include anything from street work to mobile youth work, depending on the environment and target group involved. Nevertheless, supporting outreach youth work is seen as an integral part in the social inclusion of young people.

Youth centres, along with youth work, are also specifically mentioned in the development programme of the government. They are seen as providing adventures and experiences for young people. While youth centres are not specifically mentioned as a tool to battle social exclusion, it is up to each municipality and essentially youth centre to implement the programme as they see fit. For example, the youth centre Villa Elba in Kokkola has a project called "Tailwind" which claims to be an alternative way to tackle social exclusion<sup>21</sup>.

For more information on the activities of Finnish youth centres, please visit:

<http://www.snk.fi/en/frontpage/>

### 3. Research on social inclusion

#### 3.1 Is there any national report/ national survey investigating the social exclusion of young people in your country, including issues of discrimination?

There are several such reports done by different institutions in Finland. One such example is the Finnish Youth Barometer, which is conducted annually by the Finnish Youth Research Society together with the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs. The barometer has been conducted since 1994. While these barometers have different themes every year, there are some reoccurring questions that allow analysis of how the situation has changed. One theme of questions that has been repeated is what young people themselves view as reasons or sources of social exclusion. Furthermore, the most recent barometer (2014, yet to be published) concentrates specifically on issues of discrimination. For more information on the barometers and summaries of the results, please visit: <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/en/research/youth-barometer> and <https://tietoanuurista.fi/in-english/>.

Another annual national investigation is the Youth Living Conditions Yearbook<sup>22</sup>. These investigations collect research and statistics done on young people's living conditions into one publication. For example, in 2008, the theme of the yearbook was polarisation, while the theme for 2012 was children and youth in the context of institutions – both themes which also related to the issue of social exclusion.

In addition to these annual reports, there are also single publications done by the Finnish Parliament, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, The Finnish Youth Research Network, and The Finnish Business and Policy Forum:

The Audit Committee of the Finnish Parliament (2013), "Nuorten syrjäytyminen: tietoa, toimintaa ja tuloksia?" (= Young people's social exclusion: information, action and results?), available at: <http://web.eduskunta.fi/dman/Document.phx?documentId=jz32213140909180>.

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<sup>20</sup> [http://www.okm.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/nuorisotyoen\\_kohteet\\_ja\\_rahoytus/etsiva\\_nuorisotyo/?lang=en](http://www.okm.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/nuorisotyoen_kohteet_ja_rahoytus/etsiva_nuorisotyo/?lang=en)

<sup>21</sup> [http://villaelba.fi/sosiaalinen\\_nuorisotyo](http://villaelba.fi/sosiaalinen_nuorisotyo)

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/en/research/youth-living-conditions-yearbooks>

The Ministry of Employment and the Economy (2011), “Nuoret työmarkkinoiden ja opiskelun ulkopuolella” (= Young people outside of the labour market and education), available at: [http://www.tem.fi/files/34027/Nuoret\\_tyomarkkinoiden\\_ja\\_opiskelun\\_ulkopuolella.pdf](http://www.tem.fi/files/34027/Nuoret_tyomarkkinoiden_ja_opiskelun_ulkopuolella.pdf).

The Finnish Youth Research Network, “Nuoria koskeva syrjäytymistieto: avauksia tietämisen politiikkaan” (= Knowledge on young people’s social exclusion: introductions to the politics of knowledge), available at: <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/julkaisuja/syrjaytymistieto.pdf>. For other ongoing research please visit: <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/en/research/research-projects>.

The Finnish Business and Policy Forum, “Hukassa – keitä ovat syrjäytyneet nuoret?” (= Lost – who are the socially excluded youth?), available at: <http://www.eva.fi/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Syrjaytyminen.pdf>.

### **3.2 Is there any longitudinal research focused on the cumulative nature of disadvantage (taking place across generations of the same family).**

References on longitudinal studies:

Pulkkinen, L (edit.) (1996). Lapsesta aikuiseksi. Jyväskylä: Atena.

- *“From childhood to adulthood” – a longitudinal study on the importance of difficult transitions to adulthood*

Paananen R (2012) [Lasten ja nuorten hyvinvointi Kansallinen syntymäkohortti 1987 - tutkimusaineiston valossa](http://www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/102984). THL, Raportti 52 (available at: <http://www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/102984>)

- *A longitudinal study on young people born in 1987 – results show that poverty and disadvantage are inherited from one generation to the next*

Solantaus, T ja Paavonen, EJ. (2009) Vanhempien mielenterveyshäiriöt ja lasten psykiatriset ongelmat. Duodecim: 125(17): 1839–44.

- *A study on the effect of parents’ mental illness on the child’s mental wellbeing*

### **3.3 Apart from national reports and surveys, are you aware of other research that is valuable for understanding the situation of young people (esp. those with fewer opportunities) in the current crisis?**

Research projects, past, present and future of the Finnish Youth Research Network  
<http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/en/research/research-projects>

Research projects of PERLA (Research Institute of Child, Youth and Family Research – University of Tampere)  
<http://www.uta.fi/yky/perla/tutkimus/projektit.html>  
<http://www.uta.fi/yky/perla/tutkimus/tutkimuslinjat.html>

Research done by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra  
<http://www.sitra.fi/hyvinvointi/nuorten-syrjaytyminen>

Research done by the Rehabilitation Foundation

- *Research on how to socially include young people and prevent their exclusion from the labour market*

[http://www.kuntoutussaatio.fi/tutkimus\\_ja\\_kehittaminen/kuntoutussaatio\\_puuttuu\\_nuorten\\_syrjaytmiseen\\_tutkimuksen\\_keinoin.1646.news](http://www.kuntoutussaatio.fi/tutkimus_ja_kehittaminen/kuntoutussaatio_puuttuu_nuorten_syrjaytmiseen_tutkimuksen_keinoin.1646.news)

[http://www.kuntoutussaatio.fi/tutkimus\\_ja\\_kehittaminen/toimintaohjelmat/toimintaohjelmien\\_ajankohtaiset\\_hankkeet/nuorten\\_sosiaalisen\\_kuntoutuksen\\_selvitys.478.xhtml](http://www.kuntoutussaatio.fi/tutkimus_ja_kehittaminen/toimintaohjelmat/toimintaohjelmien_ajankohtaiset_hankkeet/nuorten_sosiaalisen_kuntoutuksen_selvitys.478.xhtml)

## **4. Examples of policy responses and practices**

### **4.1 What are the relevant initiatives/projects at regional/ national level promoting the social inclusion of young people?**

The clearest example of actual policy is the Youth Guarantee, which has already been discussed in previous sections. This is a national level policy initiative that aims to provide each young person under 25 and any recent graduates under the age of 30 with a job, place in education, a place in on-the-job training or rehabilitation within 3 months of becoming unemployed.

This national policy response is mainly aimed at making sure that there is no young person outside of education, employment or training.

As far as social exclusion goes, there are other ways through which policy can help young people become more socially included. One such example already discussed are what youth centres in Finland do, such as Villa Elba in Kokkola – providing young people with guidance in everyday matters, as well as providing them adventure and experience that helps build their confidence, give them social interaction, and feel more included.

### **4.2 Have young people and civil society organizations been given political and financial support to be involved in the policy making process on social inclusion?**

Young people are included in policy making mostly through youth councils that work on the local level<sup>23</sup>. These politically non-aligned youth councils or forums are the most common way in which authorities make sure that young people's voices are heard: according to the Youth Act, young people's opinions must be heard in the process of policy making at the local level. Therefore, for any local projects regarding social inclusion of young people, young people must have been heard at some point in the decision making process.

One such example of the national level is the current reforming of the Youth Act: the Youth Act is currently being updated, and one of the key experts consulted are young people themselves. For example, for the issue of who is considered a young person, a survey has been opened up so that the public can be involved in the process. To involve young people, a specific survey on their experiences of what kind of programme would best serve their interests was opened in October 2014, and was also made accessible on Facebook and Twitter<sup>24</sup>.

### **4.3 Have youth organisations and other civil society organisations been involved in the development of the policies related to social inclusion of young people**

In addition to local level youth council or forums, other youth and civil society organisations can potentially be involved in the development of policies related to social inclusion of young people.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.nuva.fi/mika-nuorisovaltuusto/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.okm.fi/OPMTiedotteet/2014/10/nuorisolakiuudistus.html>

Often these sorts of organisations, or representatives of these organisations are called as experts into the decision making process.

For example, for the renewal or updating of the Youth Act, Leena Suurpää from the Finnish Youth Research Society, Olli Joensuu from Allianssi ry (Finnish Youth Cooperation), and Kari Sjöholm from Kuntaliitto (Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities), have been called as experts into the working group set up to update the Youth Act. This act is important for the social inclusion of young people, as it is the overall legislative guideline that the government, municipalities and local youth work follow.