

Fact Sheet About Lupp[®]



The main objectives of national youth policy in Sweden are that all young people should have real access to influence and real access to welfare. These objectives apply to all governmental activities and initiatives, but many decisions that affect young people are taken at the local level. Local youth policy initiatives are therefore crucial if the objectives are to be attained. Real access to influence means that young people should have influence in society at large as well as at school, in the neighbourhood, in leisure activities and at work. Real access to welfare means a decent living standard, good physical and mental health and the absence of exposure to discrimination or to crime.

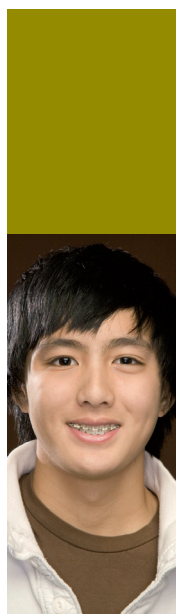
Youth policy in municipalities should be based on a comprehensive knowledge of young people's situation and how various public initiatives affect their lives. One way to gain that knowledge is by using a questionnaire to survey young people's living conditions. The results provide a solid basis for analysis, and municipal authorities can track any changes in living conditions over time by running a new survey every few years.

Lupp - *Local Follow-Up of Youth Policy* - is a survey provided by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs that enables municipalities to monitor young people's perceptions of their lives. The survey aims to encourage municipalities to develop a knowledge-based, cross-sectoral youth policy. The questionnaire is divided into several themes of relevance to policy:

- leisure
- health
- school
- work
- future
- security and vulnerability
- politics, society and influence.

Prerequisites

Carrying out the Lupp survey is a process that takes several months, from preparatory work to final report. To undertake a study of this nature involves a desire to change things, which requires political engagement and an interest in the development of youth policy. Support for this work among the politicians and officials



concerned is therefore essential. Even before the survey is carried out, it is important to consider how the results will be reported and used.

The survey is adapted for three different age groups:

- 13-15 years
- 16-18 years
- 19-25 years.

Municipalities are free to choose which age groups to investigate. The Lupp surveys of 13-18-year-olds are usually carried out in schools.

Analysing the results

Each municipality is responsible for processing the data and analysing the survey results. The municipality may either do this work internally or hire an external researcher (often in practice attached to a local college or university). Where outside help is sought, it is important to involve the researcher(s) early on in the process, preferably before the survey is carried out. The views of various associations, organisations, student councils, youth councils and other youth groups may need to be taken into account when analysing the material.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs stores all data and publishes the survey responses in a web-based application called W-Lupp. Here, municipalities, schools, students and other young people can themselves access and analyse the material.

The final report

The municipality is responsible for making the final report or a summary of it available to all those who completed the questionnaire. The report should also be presented to political decision-makers and municipal administrators, and disseminated through seminars and the local media. It is important that the results are used and referred to continuously in the municipalities whenever decisions that affect young people are taken. The data should not be forgotten just because they have been compiled and analysed in a printed report. The W-Lupp application, for example, can be used by anybody in the municipality with an ongoing need in their work for knowledge about young people.

