

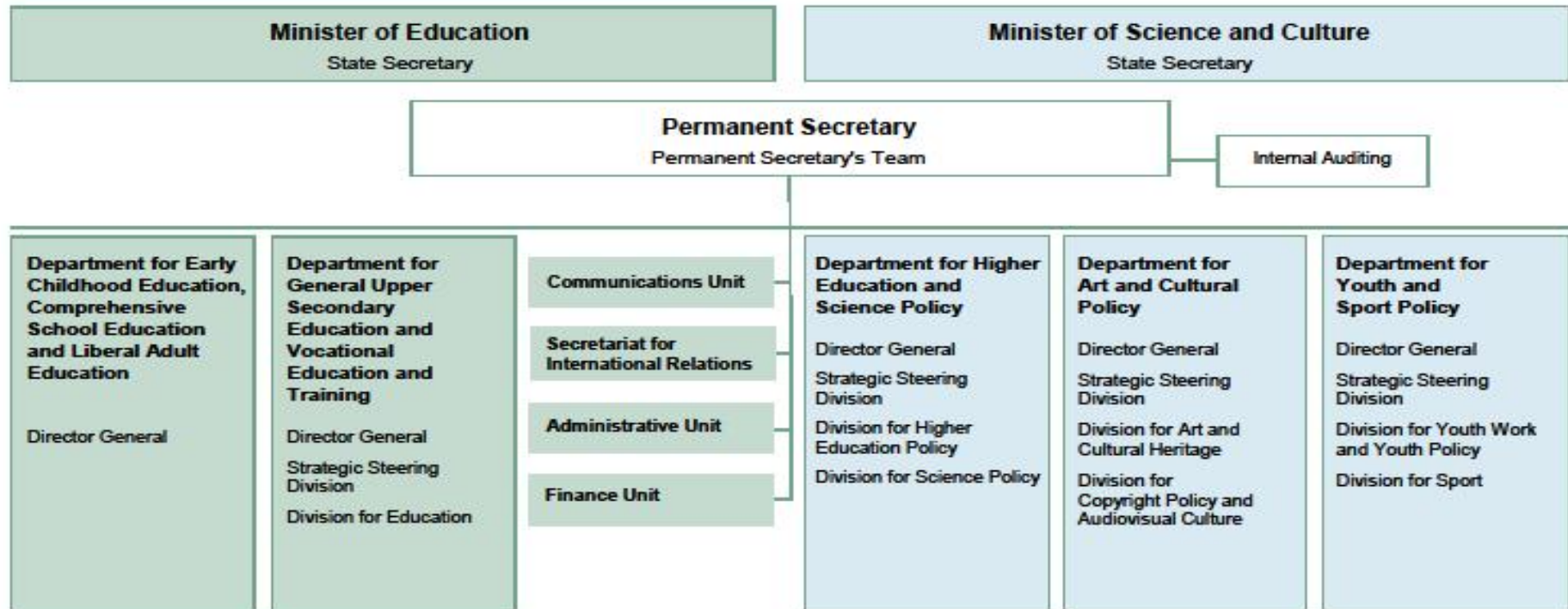


MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

The role of the ministries responsible for developing youth work – how to cooperate with HEIs

Expert meeting on higher education in youth work
Helsinki 20-23 September 2022

Ministry of Education and Culture



Department for Higher Education and Science Policy

- Higher education institutions, universities and universities of applied sciences, have an extensive autonomy and are responsible for the content of their education and research as well the development of their activities, incl. internal administration.
- The MoEC: Planning and implementation of higher education and science policy (incl. statutes, state budget, government decisions), based on the Government programme and other relevant policy documents
- The MoEC steers and finances (core funding) the activities of the HEI (agreement negotiations on each four-year agreement period (objectives, tasks, profile, core areas, emerging issues etc.)
- Steering by information – continuous interaction, visits, regional events

Department for Youth and Sport Policy

The Department for Youth and Sport Policy does not have any official role in the steering and financing of higher education in youth work

However, there are ways to influence the objectives and content of the education:

- **Legislation** (Youth Act, 1285/2016):

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the overall administration, coordination and development of the national youth policy, and for the creation of favourable conditions for the pursuit of this policy within the central government.

Department for Youth and Sport Policy

- **National youth work and youth policy programme (2020-2023)**
 - a statutory cross-administrative programme based on the Youth Act where the Government defines its youth policy objectives and the measures for attaining them;
 - Coordinates the objectives and measures determined by the key ministries in promoting young people's growth and living conditions;
 - Sets out the guidelines for supporting youth work and related activities, the national youth work centres of expertise

Department for Youth and Sport Policy

- sets the national objectives for European and international activities in the youth field:

“The status of youth work will be reinforced

Finland will work actively to implement the Council conclusions on education and training of youth workers adopted by the Council of the European Union in November 2019;

Finland will strive to strengthen the shared understanding between the Member States on youth worker education and training of a high quality and their objectives as well as further the development of flexible, practice-based operating models meeting national needs in the education and training of youth workers.”

Department for Youth and Sport Policy

- Project funding for surveys, research, events
- Cooperation in the context of the youth work centres for expertise
 - the centres of expertise develop and promote basic and special expertise in youth-related issues as well as expert and other services in youth-related fields by generating, compiling, making use of or sharing knowledge and information on young people, youth work or youth policy
- Continuous dialogue with HEIs, incl. curriculum
- Theses on topical issues proposed by/agreed with the Ministry
- Lectures given by government officials
- Trainees from the HEIs

Department for Youth and Sport Policy

Case Tampere University:

Close Cooperation between the University of Tampere and the Ministry contributed to the development of higher education in youth work

In the planning stage, the Ministry supported the initiative with project funding and expertise regarding needs for and content of the education

At present, Tampere University offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social sciences with a specialisation option in youth work and youth studies.

Youth work and youth research can be studied as a specialisation in the Degree Programme in Social Sciences

- Master of Social Sciences / Study line in Youth work and Youth Research
- Doctoral studies possible in youth research