

LUPP YOUTH SURVEY

mucf



LUPP Follow-up 2015–2018

Better local youth policy through LUPP

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Swedish Agency for
Youth and Civil Society



LUPP Follow-up 2015–2018

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Foreword

Decisions that affect young people must be based on knowledge about young people. Local Follow-up of Youth Policy (LUPP) is a survey tool that increases knowledge about young people's situations and can be an important tool for municipalities, regions, and districts to gain knowledge about young people's living conditions and changes over time. This knowledge should then be supplemented with dialogues with young people in order to contribute to decisions with a youth perspective. By speaking with young people, we get to know what they are thinking and how they view their lives. It provides valuable knowledge when we, as decision-makers, want to create good conditions for young people to live, act, work, and grow.

This report is a follow-up of the 101 municipalities and regions that have implemented LUPP between the years 2015 and 2018. 64 per cent of municipalities and regions responded to our survey and fourteen key persons were also interviewed to supplement and ensure the results of the study. Analysis company WSP (formerly Kontigo) was contracted for the report, which was written by researcher Anna Rudberg and senior consultant Erika Edquist.

The results show that all respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with LUPP as a tool and with the support provided by the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF). Seven out of ten respondents believe that LUPP has contributed to changes in youth policy as well as an increased cross-sectoral approach in the municipality or region on youth issues (e.g. networks, steering groups and other forums). At the same time, the survey shows that the full potential of LUPP has not been utilised and that the tool could be influencing policy to a greater extent than it does today. This is a challenge that MUCF will continue to work with.

LUPP can strengthen young people's living conditions and opportunities, and this report shows several good examples of strategic work that has yielded results.

Lena Nyberg, General Director
Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF)

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1. Introduction

1. Introduction

LUPP, Local Follow-up of Youth Policy, is a survey tool offered by the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) to Sweden's municipalities and regions. The purpose of the survey is to gain knowledge about young people's situations, experiences, and opinions. The results from the LUPP survey can then serve as a basis for decisions that affect young people's lives. This thereby contributes to more knowledge-based regional and municipal youth policy. The survey tool therefore aims to give young people influence over local policy.

The questions in the survey were divided into five main areas – education and learning, health and vulnerability, influence and representation, work and livelihood, and culture and leisure. Through LUPP, we can gain an understanding of how young people view these areas.

An increasing number of municipalities are using LUPP, and more than half of all municipalities in Sweden have used the tool at some time. MUCF is responsible for the development of the survey and the individual municipalities are responsible for everything from conducting the survey and disseminating the results in the municipality to implementing a youth policy based on knowledge taken from the survey results. To support the municipalities, MUCF offers information, experience exchange and the online analysis tool Luppportalen (LUPP Portal).

Kontigo's assignment was to evaluate what the LUPP survey tool has contributed to within the municipalities that conducted the survey during the 2015–2018 period. This evaluation was performed by means of analysis and compilation of survey responses as well as interviews. The survey respondents coordinated the work with LUPP at those municipalities which conducted the survey. The interviews were conducted with key persons in the use of LUPP in two regions.

The report begins with a methods section in which the evaluation methods are described. Following this is a chapter on the background to the use of LUPP, the process to establish backing, and the design of the survey. This is followed by a chapter on the analysis process and reporting, a chapter on the impact of the results on youth policy, and then a chapter on support from MUCF. Finally, a summary discussion is presented, followed by Kontigo's recommendations to MUCF.

1.1 Methods

This report is based on a survey with LUPP coordinators at the municipalities, as well as an interview study with 14 persons who are either officials coordinating LUPP within the municipality, officials in the region, or politicians within the region.

1.1.1 Survey

The survey was sent out from MUCF to all municipalities that conducted the LUPP survey during the 2015–2018 period. The survey was sent to 101 respondents working as LUPP coordinators or contact persons within municipalities or regions. Of these,

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98 were municipal officials and 3 were regional officials. The survey was completed digitally by the respondents.

The survey was open between 15 January 2019 and 18 February 2019 and during this time, two reminders were sent by email to the respondents. Similar surveys have been sent out on two previous occasions. The first survey was sent out in 2009 and the second survey was sent out in 2014. The 2019 survey was based on the previous surveys but was revised slightly to facilitate response for the respondents. The revisions were primarily aimed at shortening the survey by merging similar questions and by excluding questions that were deemed no longer relevant.

There were 64 survey respondents, which yields a response rate of 64 per cent. This is very similar to the response rate for the 2014 survey, in which 66 per cent responded to the survey. In 2009, the response rate was 91 per cent, which can probably be attributed to the respondents also being reminded by phone.

Figure 1 shows that most of those (80 per cent) who responded to the survey have been both contact person and coordinator for the work with LUPP. An additional 13 per cent have been a contact person but did not coordinate the work.

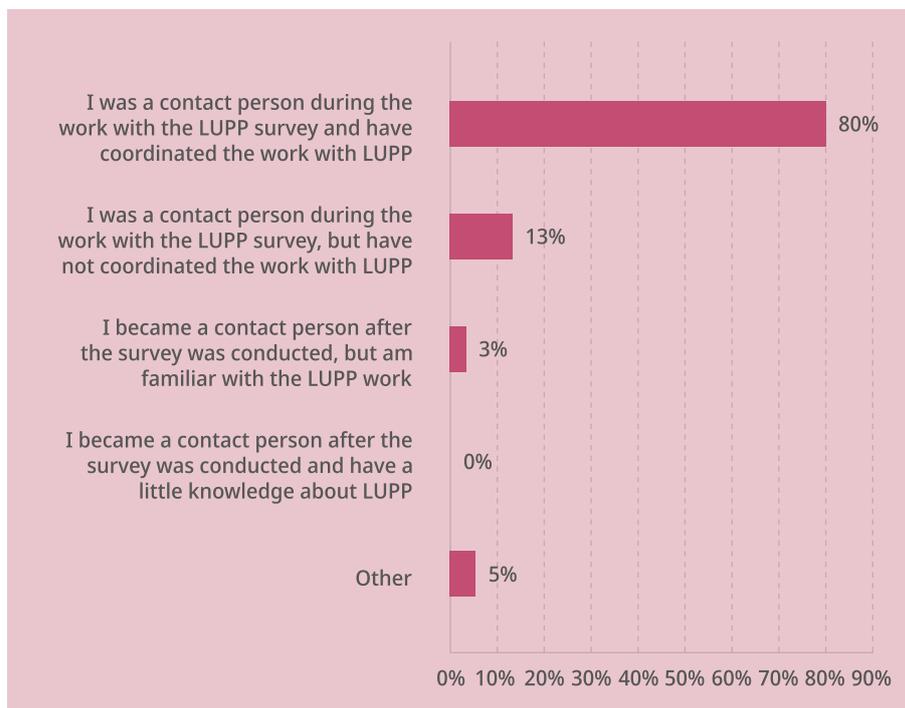


Figure 1. Select the option that best describes you. (Response rate 64/64)

1.1.2 Interviews

A total of fourteen people were interviewed within the scope of the study. The selection of interviews took place in dialogue with MUCF and was based on the regions that work with LUPP on a region-wide basis. These regions are Region Dalarna and Region Kalmar. By evaluating LUPP use in these regions, the results of working regionally are also evaluated – something that MUCF is interested in gaining more knowledge about.

In these two regions, in order to gain a good representation in terms of municipality size, the municipalities have been classified in accordance with the municipal classifications developed by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket).

The municipal classifications that have been selected comprise division into six groups, which are:

- Rural municipalities, very remotely located
- Rural municipalities, remotely located
- Rural municipalities near a major city
- Urban municipalities, remotely located
- Urban municipalities near a major city
- Metropolitan municipalities

The municipalities for the interview study have been selected based on which municipal group they belong to in order to ensure a good distribution in terms of size. In cases where the respondent declined to participate in the interview study, which happened in two cases, a new municipality in the same municipal group was selected. The reasons why these people chose to decline were either that the person was new to their post or that the post was temporarily vacant. In addition to the municipal interviews, interviews were also conducted with one politician and one official in each region.

2. Background, backing and survey design

2.1 General satisfaction with LUPP

Overall, the respondents were satisfied with LUPP. Nine out of ten respondents stated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with LUPP in general, and all stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with LUPP as a tool. These results are shown in Figures 2 and 3. In Figure 4, we see that about nine out of ten think that the implementation of LUPP has not adversely affected their operations.

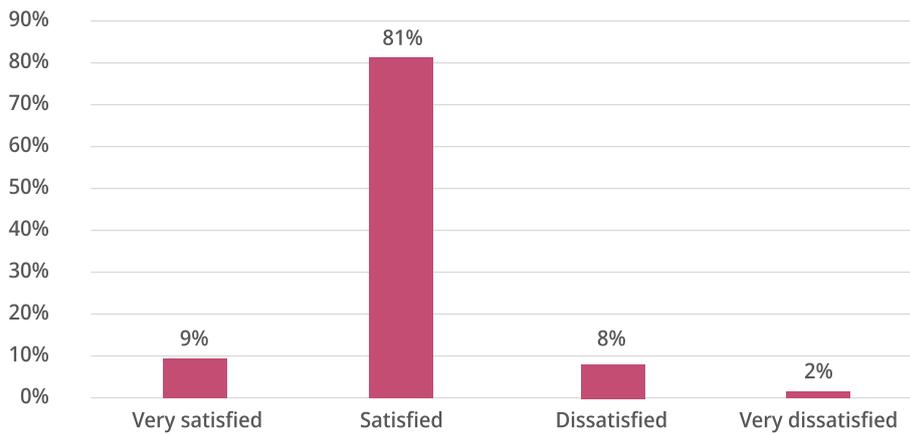


Figure 2. How satisfied are you in general with your work with LUPP? (Response rate: 64/64)

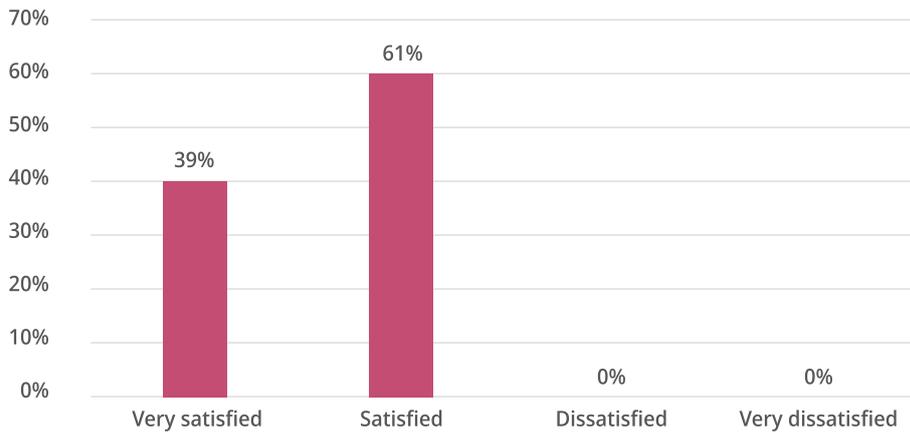


Figure 3. How satisfied are you in general with LUPP as a tool? (Response rate: 64/64)

2. Background, backing and survey design

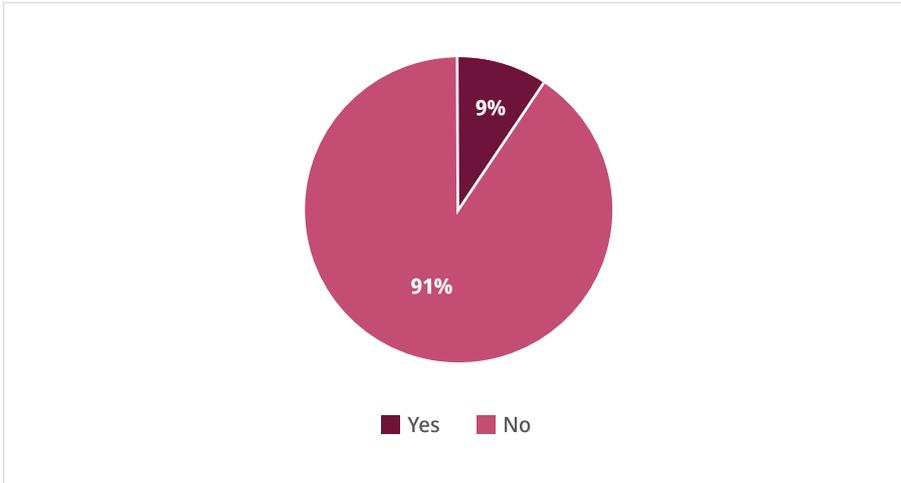


Figure 4. Has the implementation of LUPP adversely affected your operations in any way? (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents who think that the implementation of LUPP adversely affected their operations in some way answered that it takes time from other activities and that the implementation was very resource-intensive during a short period of time, and that the schools are tired of surveys. These aspects are expounded upon in the report below.

2.2 Background to the use of LUPP

In the survey, less than one in ten respondents stated that they had implemented LUPP once. 41 per cent have implemented LUPP four times or more, as shown in Figure 5. When the survey was conducted in 2014, 23 per cent had implemented LUPP once and only 14 per cent responded that they had implemented LUPP four times or more.

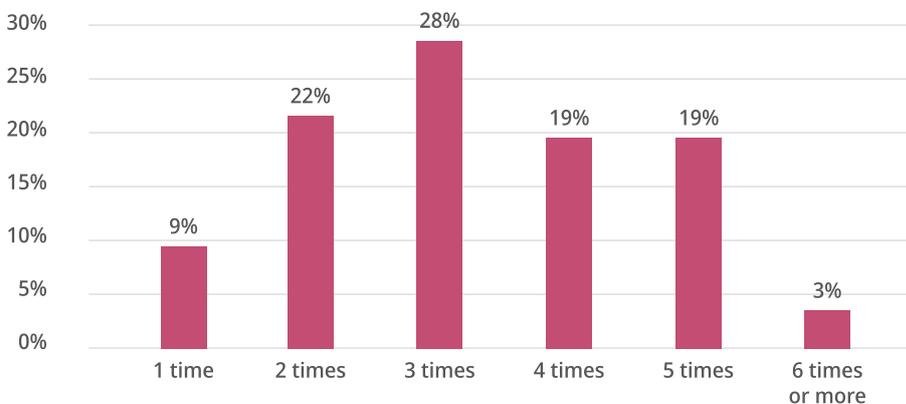


Figure 5. How many times has your organisation implemented LUPP? (Response rate: 64/64)

2. Background, backing and survey design

The interviewees gave varying answers as to how long they have used the tool. The municipality that stated the earliest use of the tool used it in 2005, and some of the municipalities stated that they first used LUPP in 2015. How continuously the interviewed municipalities have used LUPP varied from about every other year to every three years. However, all LUPP surveys are now conducted simultaneously by all municipalities in Region Dalarna and Region Kalmar counties, namely every three years. As it is conducted every three years, it is the same students that complete the LUPP survey – when they are in Year 8 of compulsory school and when they are in Year 2 of upper secondary school.

The reason interviewees gave for why they felt the need to use the survey tool was that they wished to place more focus on the work with young people. One of the interviewees pointed out that they had previously conducted other surveys for e.g. alcohol and drugs, and had begun using LUPP because it was a broader tool.

One interviewee in Dalarna stated that Region Dalarna had begun the collaboration regarding LUPP and that several municipalities then began using the tool. Region Dalarna adopted a strategy four years ago to become 'Sweden's Youth Region' and several of the indicators in the strategy come from the LUPP survey.

LUPP is also implemented throughout the Kalmar County region. The decision for the entire region to implement LUPP was, according to the regional politician in Kalmar County, a decision taken by the municipalities themselves.

2.3 Backing

The work to establish backing for LUPP within a municipality can be done both formally, through political decisions and administrative decisions, or informally through, for example, discussions with the parties involved. Figure 6 shows that virtually all respondents stated that there was backing in municipal boards or similar for the implementation of LUPP. The proportion is basically unchanged in comparison with 2014.

2. Background, backing and survey design

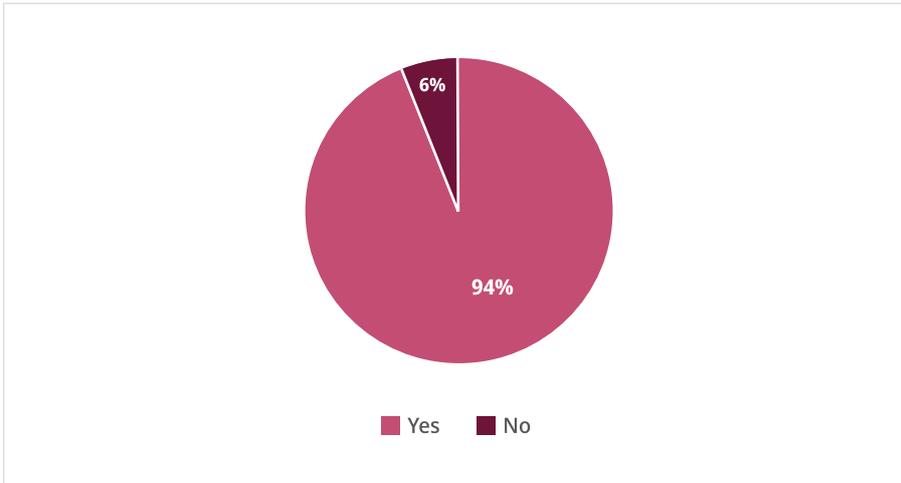


Figure 6. Was there backing in the municipal board or similar for the implementation of LUPP? (Response rate: 64/64)

Figure 7 illustrates that the largest proportion of respondents believe that the work to establish backing was most successful for the groups politicians and schools. Only 6 per cent stated that the work to establish backing with young people worked best. This is in line with what was presented in Figure 8, where the greatest proportion of respondents stated that young people is the most difficult group to reach in the work to establish backing. The same figure also shows that only 3 per cent thought that politicians are the most difficult to reach out to. 31 per cent of the respondents stated that the work to establish backing was most successful in the schools, while 27 per cent also stated that the schools are the most difficult to reach in the work to establish backing.

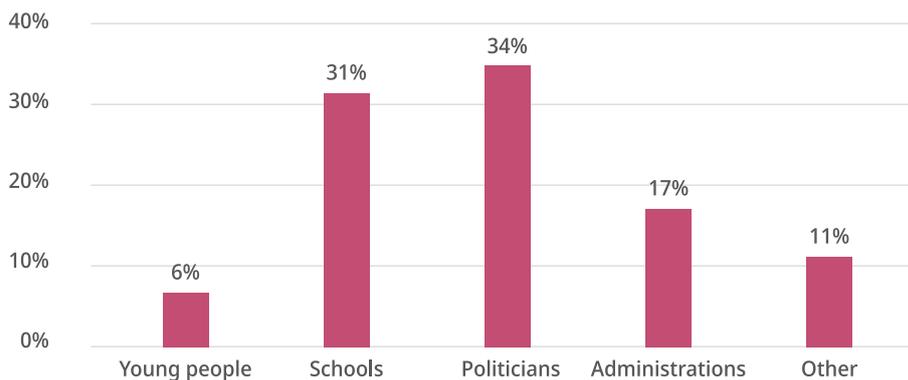


Figure 7. In which group were you most successful with your work to establish backing? (Response rate: 64/64)

2. Background, backing and survey design

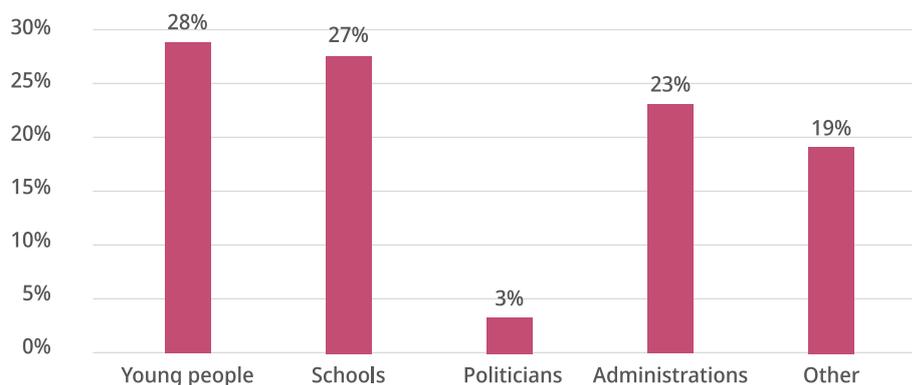


Figure 8. Which groups were most difficult to reach in your work to establish backing? (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents in the evaluation survey were also asked to respond to an open-ended question regarding in which councils there was backing for LUPP to be implemented in the municipality. Several of the respondents stated that there has been backing in all councils, or alternatively in the municipal board or municipal council. The respondents who answered other to the question shown in the figure above stated that there was backing in the education and child services council, social welfare council, culture and leisure council, district council, health and medical care council, community development council or equivalent. The most common councils in which backing existed were the education and child services council and the culture and leisure council.

In interviews with LUPP representatives at the municipalities, it emerged that the work to establish backing was seen as extremely important and that, in several of the municipalities, a lot of time was devoted to establishing backing for the work on different levels and with different actors. The schools, students and politicians were the actors emphasised as most important in the work to establish backing for LUPP. One interviewee stated:

Backing has been established in Year 8 and at the parent meetings. It also has political backing in the councils, particularly in the education council and to some extent in the social welfare council. We are working better now in comparison with five–six years ago and have collaboration meetings attended by two politicians from each council and the respective directors.

Several interviewees at the municipal level in Dalarna said that it is easy to establish backing for LUPP because it works as a tool to quantitatively monitor the youth strategy developed in the region. At the municipal level, the strategy is integrated, once it is adopted, in the municipal management system and operational plans. There are thus requirements for monitoring and follow-up, and LUPP is seen as an important tool for following up on goals and indicators.

2. Background, backing and survey design

One interviewee said that they, in their role as LUPP coordinator, have reported on their work in all political committees and collected knowledge about which areas/committees are interested in getting more information from a youth perspective. According to the interviewee, this has led to the results being used by the committees as the knowledge base they have got back has been perceived as relevant.

2.3.1 Difficult to establish backing for LUPP in schools and among students

The respondents of the evaluation survey were asked about the biggest difficulties they faced in implementing LUPP. The vast majority of the respondents emphasised the difficulties in getting out to the schools and getting the students to complete the LUPP survey. This, according to the respondents, could either be due to a lack of interest from teachers, head teachers and students, or that it is difficult purely in terms of planning to find times at which it is possible to get to the schools to have the students complete the survey.

It was brought up in both the evaluation survey and the interviews that the schools and students are tired of surveys. One respondent emphasised that the time set aside for the students to complete the survey had to instead be used to convince the students why it was important to answer the questions.

It is a challenge to get the schools to understand why it is important to complete the survey and to get the schools to see LUPP as something positive for their operations. It can also be difficult to get time at the school for feedback to the students about the results, and one respondent indicated that it would have been easier if feedback to the students was at least as an important part of LUPP as the collection of the results. Several of the respondents pointed out that response rates are becoming increasingly lower over time and that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get school staff to convince the young people to participate in LUPP.

The respondents who completed the evaluation survey were asked to answer an open-ended question about the ways in which young people have been involved in the work with LUPP. How much the young people were involved in the work differs between the municipalities. Some state that they have been informed and were involved in large parts of the process. Others say that the young people were involved by them receiving information before and during the survey collection process. Some respondents said that the young people were not involved at all in the LUPP work.

A similar picture emerged in the interviews – that backing and feedback among the schools and students can be problematic. At the same time, changed approaches were highlighted that have been positive for the establishment of backing. Among other things, the LUPP coordinator in one municipality used already built-up communication channels between the school administration authority and the schools to disseminate information. In this way, the interviewee argued, there was a clear inroad to all schools and it wasn't necessary to contact and court the schools.

2. Background, backing and survey design

Ten years ago, I was out speaking in all the schools. This time, I used an existing channel that is established and where there is legitimacy. It's important that the administration has an established channel that works well. We make a communication plan, me and the planning secretary, for how they want to get the results back to the students.

Several of the interviewees emphasised the importance of relating the results back to the young people, and that this work also affects the possibility of getting schools and students interested in LUPP and convincing them to complete the survey. Chapter 4.2, Dissemination of the results, describes how the municipalities have worked to disseminate the results and relate these back to the young people.

Establishing backing in charter schools was emphasised as even more difficult than in municipal schools. One respondent to the evaluation survey, for example, said that several of the charter schools declined to participate, which risks leading to a distortion in results because students at the charter schools in the municipality may be linked to certain specific socio-economic indicators.

2.4 LUPP survey design

2.4.1 Relevance of survey questions

89 per cent of evaluation survey respondents are satisfied with the questions in LUPP, which is an increase over 2014, when the proportion was seven out of ten. The remaining 11 per cent stated that they are not satisfied with the questions, which is shown in Figure 9.

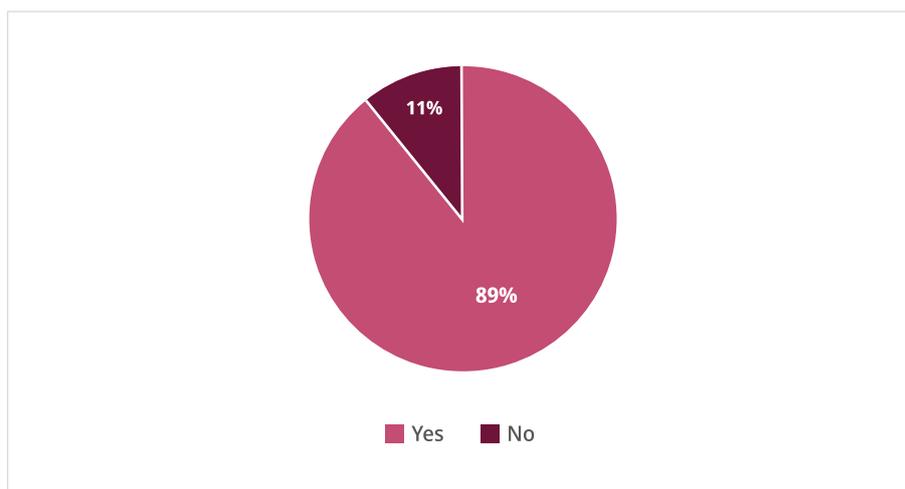


Figure 9. Are you satisfied with the questions in the LUPP survey? (Response rate: 64/64)

2. Background, backing and survey design

Of those who answered that they were not satisfied with the questions, it emerged in the responses to the open-ended questions that they felt some questions were not up to date. This was also mentioned in the interviews. Examples of questions that were considered to have not been updated are those that deal with the young people's leisure habits, where response options linked to computer and Internet usage do not reflect young people's use. Questions about drugs were likewise highlighted, by some respondents, as outdated and as not giving a good picture of how young people get hold of and use drugs.

It also emerged, in the survey and interviews, that changing questions and response options was not seen as unproblematic. Comparability over time is considered important and changing survey questions could limit comparability. Among other things, one respondent mentioned in the evaluation survey that in 2015, a 'don't know' option was added to the LUPP survey, and that this impaired comparability.

One interviewee stated:

There is another problem associated with the questions needing to be changed. This will cause problems because you cannot compare. There are a lot of questions about drugs and health in which the questions need to be reviewed, as well as concerning habits online. These sorts of things are changing all the time, and the question there is how to revise – MUCF needs to think about this.

Furthermore, several respondents, both in the evaluation survey and in the interviews, stated that the LUPP survey is too long. It emerged that students in certain cases have, towards the end of the survey, become disinterested and instead just filled in the responses casually. There were requests to offer respondents the chance to spread out completion of the LUPP survey over several occasions.

One interviewee stated:

The survey is long and some questions may not need to be included. The rating questions can be a bit needlessly repetitive. We should maybe try to reduce the number of questions because some students have a hard time sitting still so long and completing the survey.

Other aspects highlighted in the evaluation survey were that some respondents thought it was wrong to ask about young people's sexuality because this could be perceived as a violation of privacy. It was also pointed out that the gender question should be reviewed based on GDPR and SKL's recommendations on how such questions are posed and then used in analyses.

Other views that emerged on the LUPP survey's design were that there were some problems with translations to other languages than Swedish and that paper versions were not exactly the same as the regular online version.

2.4.2 Difficult for the target group to understand the questions in the survey

Of those who stated that they were not satisfied with the questions in the LUPP survey, several respondents would have liked definitions of terms and concepts in the survey. Concepts that were highlighted as difficult for the young people to understand were, for example, harassment, bullying, abusive behaviour, sexual harassment, policy, societal issues, and anabolic steroids.

It also emerged in the interviews with LUPP coordinators at the municipalities that there was a risk of certain concepts being misinterpreted by the students. One interviewee said that it would be good if there were links to explanations of the concepts in the survey questions. One interviewee gave further examples of questions that could be misinterpreted by the students:

We noticed, when we did other surveys, that if you are active in an association, you can tick yes or no. But in other surveys, there is a follow-up question asking which organisation you belong to. We noticed that many didn't know what an association was; they wrote IKEA Club or the Ving Bamse Club. We noticed due to this result that the numbers may not be accurate.

It furthermore emerged in the evaluation survey that the practical implementation of the LUPP survey for people with another mother tongue than Swedish and those with intellectual disabilities has been a challenge. This is because the wording of some of the questions is too complicated. The question aimed at determining if a person has a disability is, according to one respondent, posed in too complicated a manner for a large proportion of the respondents with intellectual disabilities to understand.

One interviewee stated that they used LUPP but opted out of the survey in favour of other surveys, but that in 2018, they reintroduced it as all municipalities in the region are conducting the survey. The reason why they previously chose not to conduct LUPP was that it fell short in their investigation of groups they wanted to know more about within the municipality, such as young people with various disabilities, as it is difficult for them to complete the survey. The municipality previously chose instead to use surveys that specifically targeted these groups.

It was also mentioned in the evaluation survey that the technology did not make it easier for those students who need extra time to complete the survey or the opportunity to divide up the questions and move back and forth between them. One of the respondents, for example, noted that it is difficult to pause the survey and that you have to complete it within a certain time period. Persons completing the LUPP survey cannot click backwards without coming back to the first page.

3. Analysis and reporting



3.1 Analysis work and the LUPP Portal

The LUPP Portal is the online platform that has been used for the LUPP survey since 2015. In the portal, it is possible to perform simple analyses of the results. The representative at the municipality can also get the information in the form of a compiled data file for in-depth analyses in another statistics tool.

Only 6 per cent of respondents stated that the LUPP Portal had not been of use to them. About seven out of ten said that officials at the municipalities used the portal after the report was completed.

Those who answered other to the question in the figure below stated in the open-ended answer option that they used the portal even before the report was written to, for example, review the results, do a quick analysis, and for feedback before the report was finished.

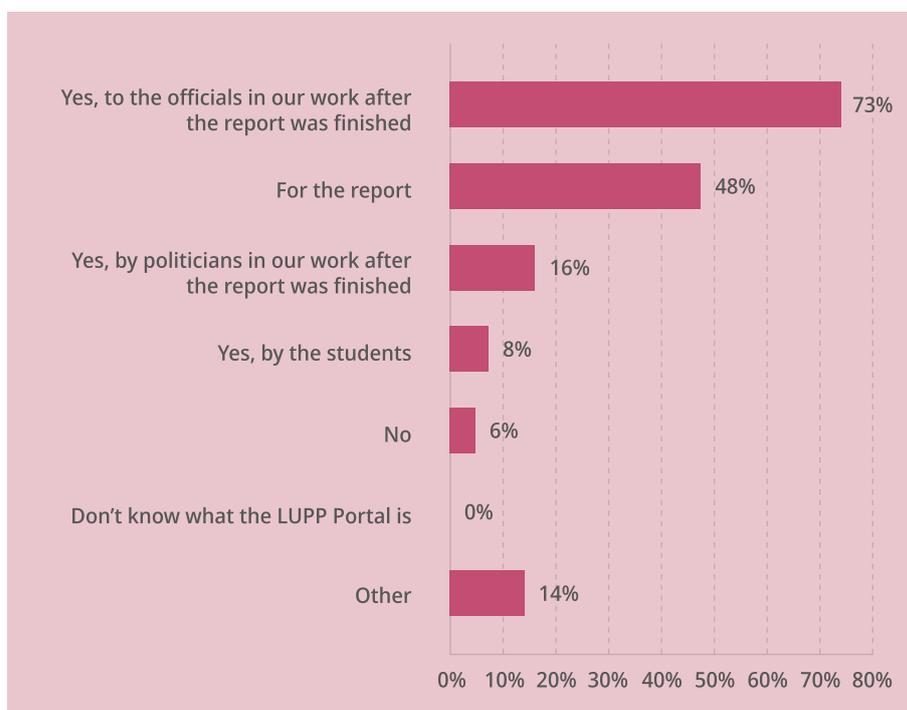


Figure 10. Has the LUPP portal been of use to you? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents who completed the evaluation survey were asked how the LUPP Portal could be improved. Several of the respondents mentioned that it could be improved so that they could more easily do cross-tabulations to compare between the years, between the different school-year groups, and between different background factors and then link to specific questions. There was also a request for the possibility to run several variables at the same time, such as gender, country of birth or sexual orientation, for example.

3. Analysis and reporting

Another request was for better opportunities for analysis for those who wanted to do this and did not think the LUPP Portal was sufficient. Several thought that it was easier to produce materials for various meetings and inquiries and to cross-tabulate in W-Lupp. W-Lupp was the previous database that has now been replaced by the LUPP Portal.

When the interviewees were asked which areas they thought could be developed in LUPP, the LUPP Portal was highlighted as an area for development. It was emphasised that there were more well-developed tools on the market and that the LUPP Portal was primarily useful for descriptive statistics. The interviews also highlighted the possibility of doing cross-tabulations as a development need because this could lead to faster feedback for those making inquiries. One survey respondent mentioned that switching from W-Lupp to the LUPP Portal has made it difficult to perform analyses regarding changes over time and between questions. At the same time, several interviewees pointed out that the LUPP Portal is more user-friendly than W-Lupp.

SKL's analysis tool Kolada was mentioned in some of the interviews as a well-functioning tool in which users can easily produce graphs and make comparisons. Through Kolada, it is also possible to perform comparisons with other municipalities of, for example, the same size and with the same socio-economic conditions.

The evaluation survey respondents also highlighted technical aspects linked to the LUPP Portal that could be improved, such as that it could be easier to find specific questions and that the portal often freezes when several people are logged in at the same time. Others mentioned problems with login credentials. One of the respondents said that it is a sensitive issue to give out login credentials because some students can be singled out, and wanted to find a way to overcome this so that students could access parts of the system and work in it. In an interview with an official at one of the regions, the desire was expressed to have easier access to all of the participating municipalities' results.

In the evaluation survey, the respondents were also asked questions related to MUCF's support in the analysis work. About six out of ten thought that MUCF should help out in the analysis work. Many respondents also submitted suggestions on which type of support they wanted in the analysis work. This is presented in more detail in Chapter 5.1.

3.1.1 Comparisons over time

91 per cent of the respondents who have conducted LUPP several times have used data from previous surveys to make comparisons over time. Most of the municipalities that have not made comparisons with previous LUPP surveys stated that the last survey was too far back in time to make useful comparisons.

Nearly all interviewees said that there were benefits to comparing results from the LUPP survey over time. How the results were compared over time, however, varied. Some do not compare at all over time, some choose to focus on specific

3. Analysis and reporting

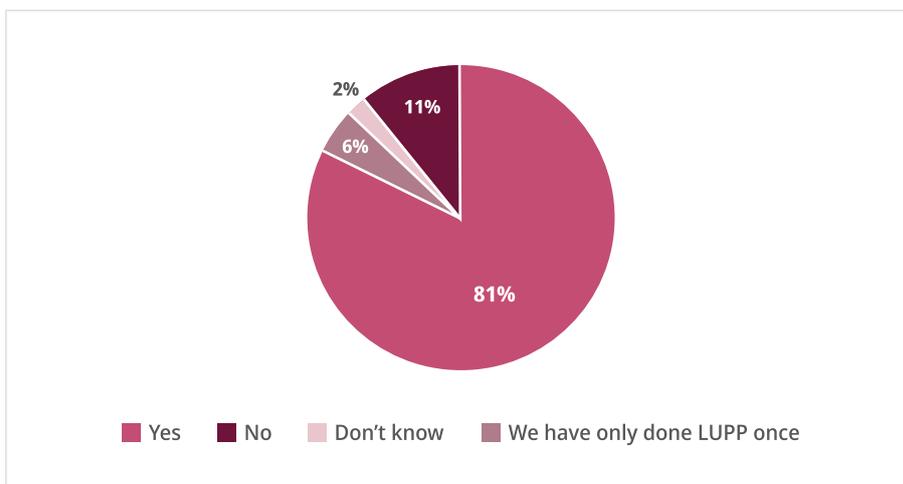


Figure 11. Have you used data from previous LUPP surveys and made comparisons over time? (Response rate: 64/64)

areas such as security and mental illness, while others make more detailed comparisons. One of the interviewees who makes detailed comparisons describes:

We compare with our own municipality over time, but also with the other municipalities in the region to study if there are intra-regional differences. You can follow initiatives conducted in different areas to see if there has been any improvement. If you don't conduct LUPP with a time interval, it's not very useful. You have nothing to compare yourself with.

The regions get access to all of the municipalities' results and compare the results over time and between the municipalities. One official at a region gave the following example:

We focus on the issues that we have in our strategy. We have an analysis department in the region, which can make both local and municipal results presentations, etc. Then we can make comparisons based on what is needed.

Something that was highlighted as an aggravating factor in connection with the comparisons over time is the problem of dropouts, and one of the interviewees said that dropouts have been so extensive that there is a big change in the response rate between the measurements.

3.2 Reporting

A report presenting the results from the LUPP survey is an important tool for the continued development work with youth issues. Figure 12 shows that 86 per cent of the respondents have produced a report (either a popular version, a detailed report or both) after the LUPP survey. 50 per cent of these wrote the report(s) internally at the administration, 46 per cent engaged a private consultant, and 20 per cent had a researcher write the report (see Figure 13). Note that it was possible to choose more than one of these options.

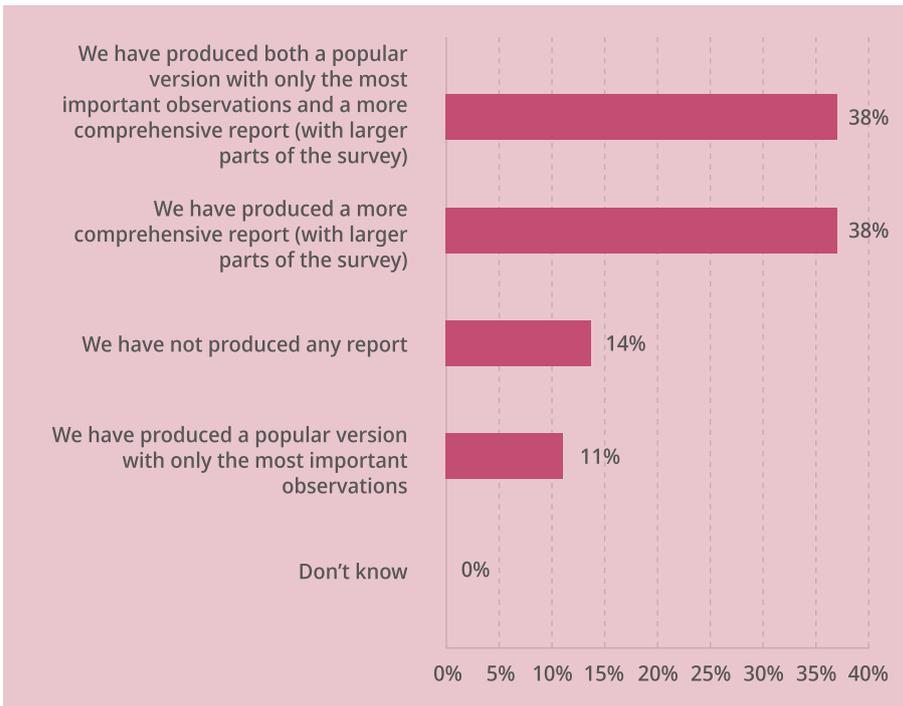


Figure 12. What types of reports have you produced after the LUPP survey? (Response rate: 64/64)

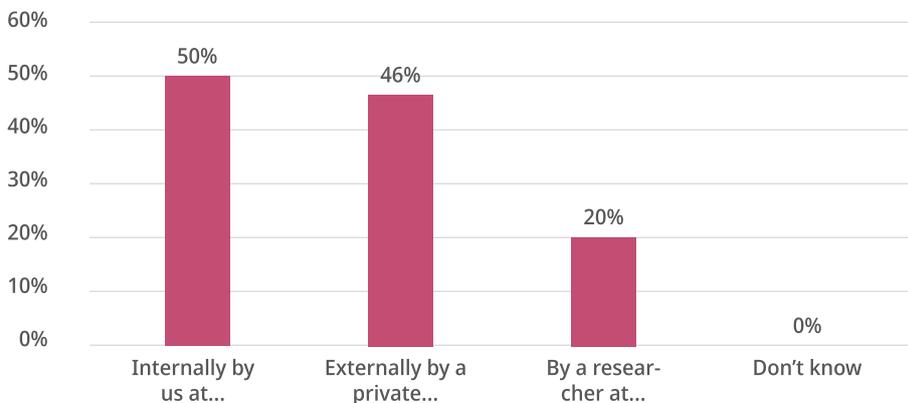


Figure 13. Who were the report(s) written by? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 54/55)

3. Analysis and reporting

Figure 14 shows that nearly eight out of ten said that they have had use, or great use, for the report(s), which is roughly the same proportion as in 2014. One out of ten answered that they have had little use for the report(s) and no respondent answered that they had no use for the reports.

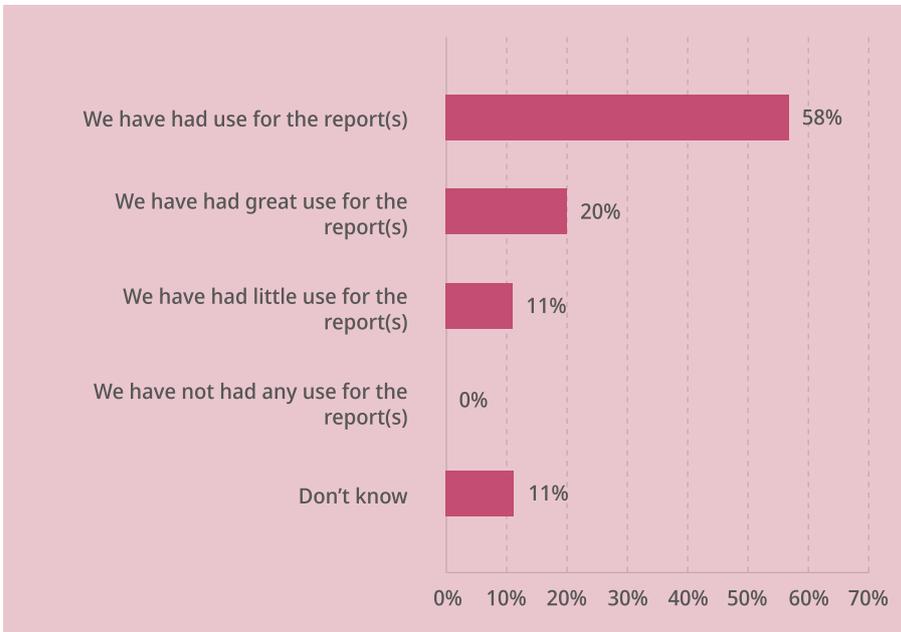


Figure 14. Which of the following options best describes how you have used your report(s)? (Response rate: 55/55)

The areas most often highlighted in the report are society and influence, health, and security. This is illustrated in Figure 15. 44 per cent answered that they have highlighted all areas listed as response options in the evaluation survey. 9 per cent answered other to the question and in the open-ended comments, these respondents stated, for example, parents' importance for young people's physical health, focus on influence, establishment of participation and physical health, young people's conditions, or that they were not finished with the reports yet, which makes the question difficult to answer.

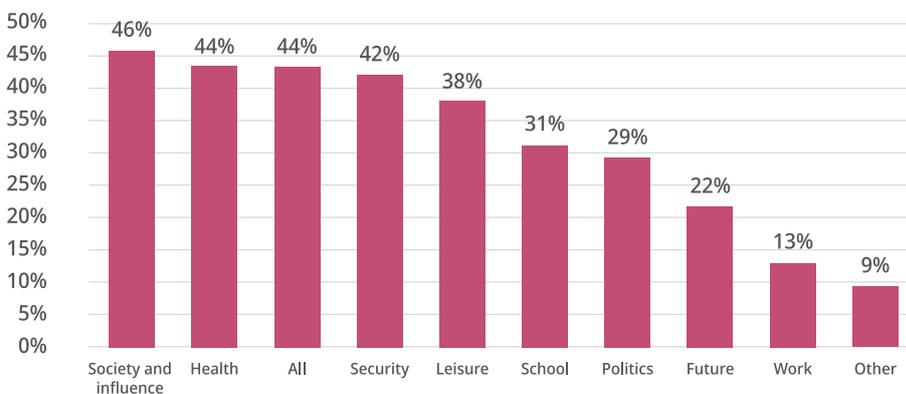


Figure 15. Which areas did you choose to highlight in the report(s)? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 55/55)

3. Analysis and reporting

Figure 16 shows that 78 per cent have focused to a very high or rather high extent on similarities and differences between girls and boys in the report(s).

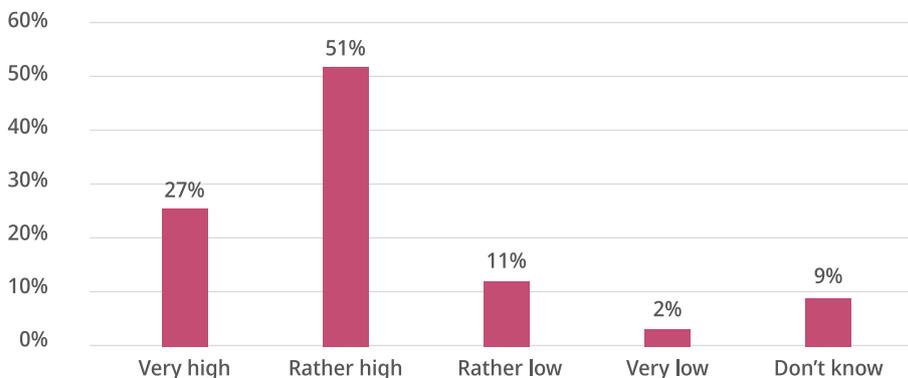


Figure 16. To what extent have you focused on similarities and differences between girls and boys in your report(s)? (Response rate: 55/55)

In Figure 17, we see that 73 per cent of respondents indicated that they used an LGBTQ perspective to a rather low or very low extent in the report(s). Only one respondent (corresponding to 2 per cent) answered that they to a very high extent used an LGBTQ perspective.

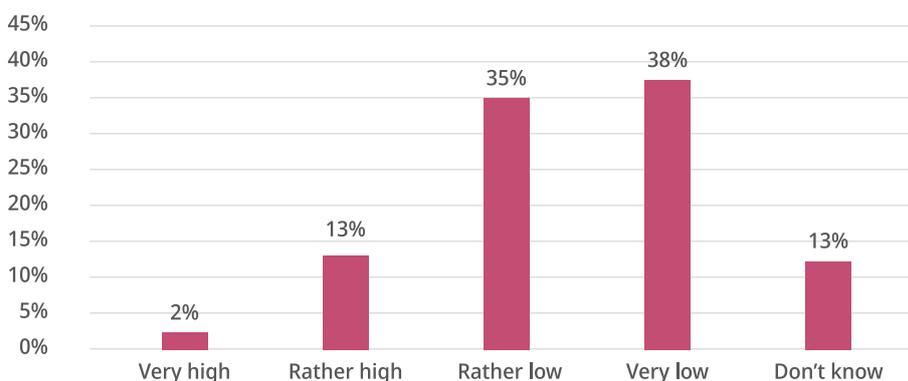


Figure 17. To what extent have you used an LGBTQ perspective in your report(s)? (Response rate: 55/55)

The interviews clearly follow the results of the survey. Follow-up from a gender equality perspective is significantly more common than follow-up from an LGBTQ perspective. Several interviewees emphasised that the results are often presented by gender but that there is not enough data to do a follow-up from an LGBTQ perspective.

Two interviewees stated that:

We cannot follow up based on LGBTQ. There are too few who fill in anything other than heterosexual and we are such a small municipality, so the population is too little.

Many state that they do not know their sexual orientation, so it becomes difficult to analyse based on that. We can see that there are many who don't know and quite few who state that they have a sexual orientation other than heterosexual.

Several interviewees said that there are political decisions stipulating that gender based statistics must always be presented. There are not decisions on statistics from an LGBTQ perspective, however, and this is thereby not equally prioritised. The same picture emerged even on a regional level in the interviews – the results are analysed based on gender but not from an LGBTQ perspective.

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

4.1 Interesting results and changes over time

In the evaluation survey, there was a question on which results from LUPP were considered the most interesting. The results that most respondents highlighted as interesting are increased mental illness and insecurity. The respondents also thought that the results regarding young people’s own views on influence and democracy are interesting, as well as views on leisure and the future. Several of the respondents pointed out that it is interesting that young people have a big interest in politics and societal issues, and in being involved in developments in the municipality. Several also wrote that results connected to alcohol and drugs are interesting and it was mentioned, for example, that young people’s alcohol consumption continues to decline.

The differences in responses linked to different groups was also highlighted as interesting knowledge. The groups the respondents emphasised were interesting to compare were based, for example, on gender, area of residence, age, school type (municipal or private), sexual orientation, country of birth and disability.

About two-thirds responded that they have not seen any marked changes in the results in comparison with previous LUPP surveys. Of those who have seen changes in the results, slightly more have seen positive changes than negative changes in results.

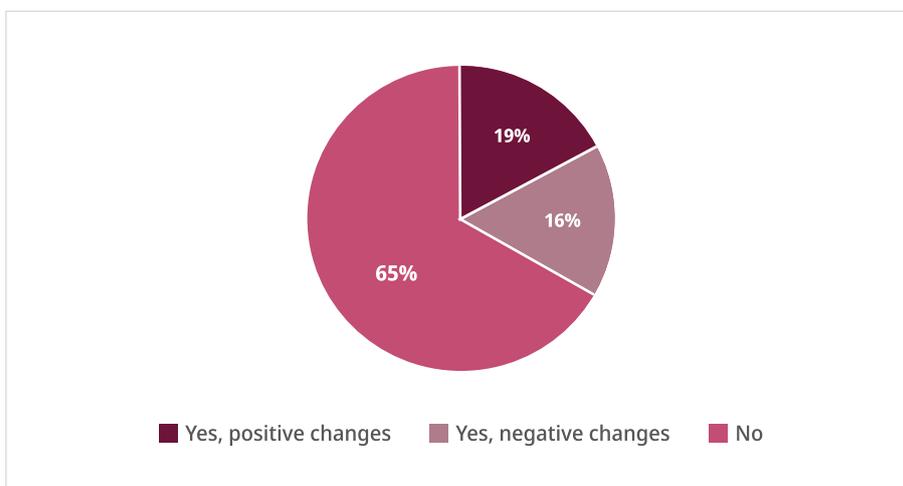


Figure 18. Have you seen any marked changes in results in comparison with previous LUPP surveys? (Response rate: 62/64)

43 per cent answered that marked positive changes have taken place in the area society and influence, which is illustrated in Figure 19. A large proportion also say that positive changes have taken place in the areas health, future, and politics.

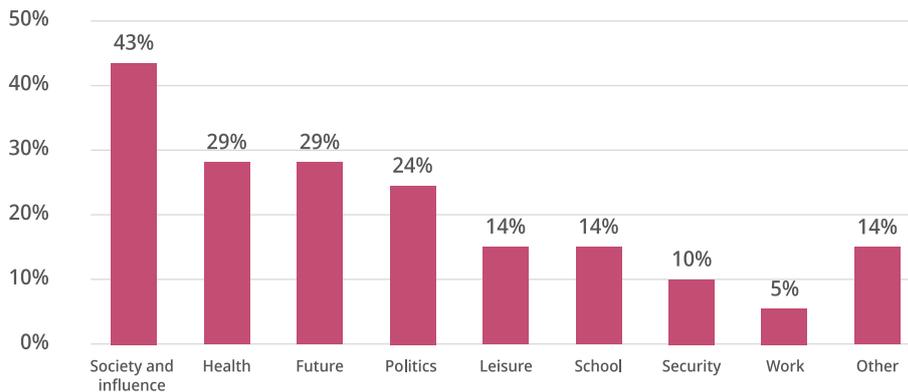


Figure 19. In which areas have marked positive changes taken place? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 62/64)

The respondents who completed the evaluation survey were asked if there were any special efforts or initiatives that might be behind the positive changes. They indicated, among other things, that the feeling of participation in society and influence has increased, which one of the respondents believes may be due to LUPP creating arenas for this. Among other things, it was mentioned that funds have been invested in arranging recreational activities for young people, that there are youth dialogues, and that young people have been given work as municipal developers.

4.2 Dissemination of the results

The most common groups among which the LUPP results are actively disseminated are politicians, administrations, head teachers, young people, and teachers. 8 per cent responded that they had not made any dissemination efforts. There have not been any marked changes in comparison with 2014 in terms of to which groups and to what extent the results have been disseminated.

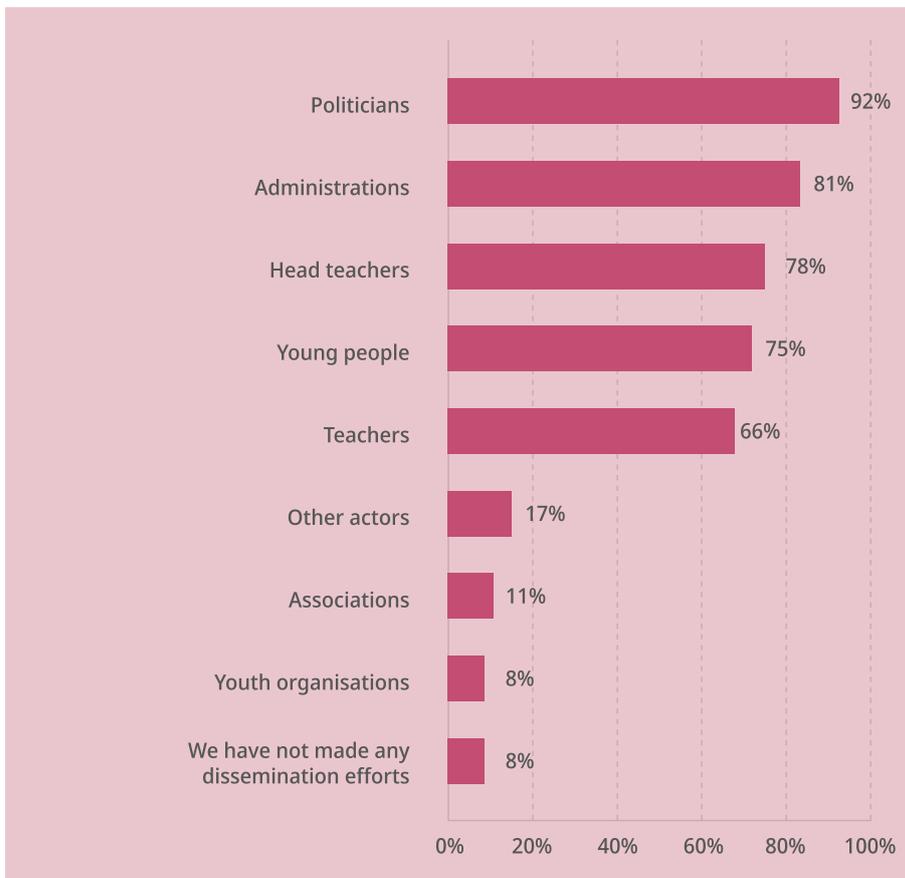


Figure 20. To which groups have you actively disseminated the LUPP results? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents were also asked in which way they have disseminated the results within their organisation.

The respondents disseminate the results in different ways. Examples given in the evaluation survey are through presentations, reports, websites, mailings, conferences, workshops, as basis for discussion and action, that they have network meetings for different development areas, and that they have sent out the reports to the various working groups working with young people. The results are disseminated to young people through, among other things, targeted reports to young people in secondary/upper secondary school, class visits, youth councils or youth forums, and via youth democracy days.

The interviewees were also asked to describe how the dissemination was performed, and one of the interviewees described the dissemination in their municipality as follows:

Our goal is to disseminate to many different administrations and areas. There are a lot of takeaways for e.g. the business community. Among other things, we see that the young people want to remain in the municipality and work here, and it is very important for the business community to find this out. We also see what the young people think about

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

construction and housing. It is important that these issues are taken into city planning. Many say that they move away because of the housing situation and it is important to find this out, that such a large proportion give this as a reason for moving. Our aim is to reach out to reach out as widely as possible in our dissemination.

Several of those interviewed also highlighted the dissemination conferences arranged by the regions as important arenas for dissemination of the results. Both municipality-specific results and region-wide trends and areas for development are discussed at the conferences. In interviews with officials at the regions, it emerged that the regions help to disseminate the results locally if the municipalities so wish, but it was also pointed out that the responsibility for carrying out results-based work is then handed over to the municipalities. In autumn, one of the regions will conduct thematic days linked to the results of LUPP along with the regional network.

Both the interviewees and the survey respondents emphasised the importance of providing feedback to the young people. Examples of dissemination of the results include through democracy days and work with student councils. There are several examples of municipalities that offer summer jobs in municipal development for young people. The work with municipal development then connects to LUPP and the results are linked to, for example, the municipality's Agenda 2030 work. In several municipalities, the summer workers worked to produce a film that clarifies the results from LUPP, and which can then be used in the dissemination work.

In the evaluation survey, it emerged that several municipalities have working groups that have visited the classes to provide feedback on the results and have a dialogue with the students about their thoughts on them. In some municipalities, the results were also supplemented with a number of in-depth interviews with the young people. The benefit, as expressed by the respondents, of involving the young people in the work is the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of what lies behind the answers in the survey. One respondent wrote that:

When the young people are involved, they become even more engaged and feel that they are being listened to and that they can actually be involved and influence.

The interviewees also emphasised the importance of the young people getting to be involved in analysing the survey and suggesting concrete initiatives. One of the interviewees noted that there are many initiatives being implemented for the young people thanks to the results from LUPP, but points out that the municipality needs to be better at communicating this to the young people.

4.3 Impact of the results on youth policy and youth work

Figure 21 shows that seven out of ten respondents think that LUPP has contributed to changes in youth policy. This is somewhat lower than in both 2009 and 2014, when three out of four municipalities stated that LUPP had contributed to changes in the municipal youth policy.

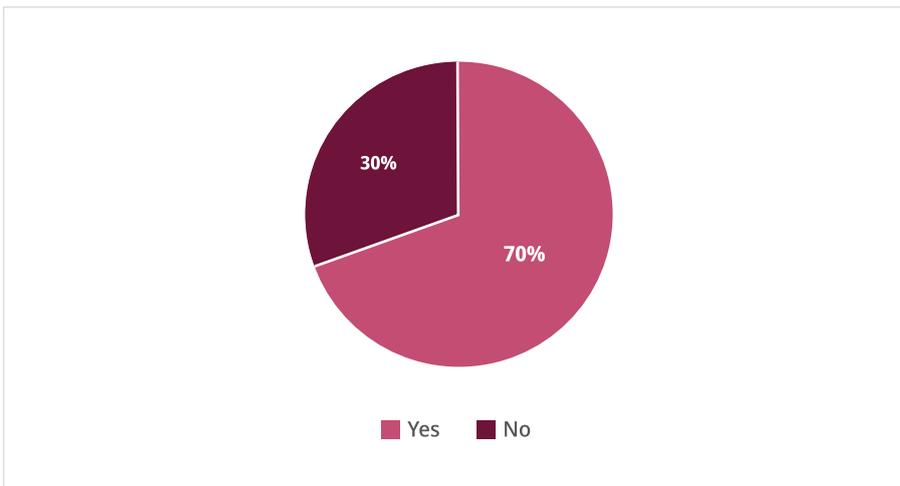


Figure 21. Has LUPP contributed to any changes in youth policy in your operations?
(Response rate: 64/64)

As shown in Figure 22, the highest proportion of respondents answered that LUPP has contributed to more resources for various projects affecting young people, a response that has increased from 14 to 22 per cent between the years 2014 and 2018. Just over one in ten answered that LUPP has not contributed anything, 44 per cent answered that LUPP contributed to something other which was not included in the response options. In the open-ended answers, the respondents wrote above all that it increased knowledge about young people's life situations and created a knowledge-based approach from the young people's perspective. It was also stated that LUPP contributed to an increased interest in youth issues among certain officials, improved collaboration between different administrations, development areas for the administrations to work on, and conversations concerning the development of youth policy action programmes. In one municipality, LUPP has also contributed to a council for issues related to children and young people. A few respondents answered that they hope LUPP will contribute to several of the response options, but that they had not begun this work yet or that it was too early to answer how LUPP has contributed to youth policy.

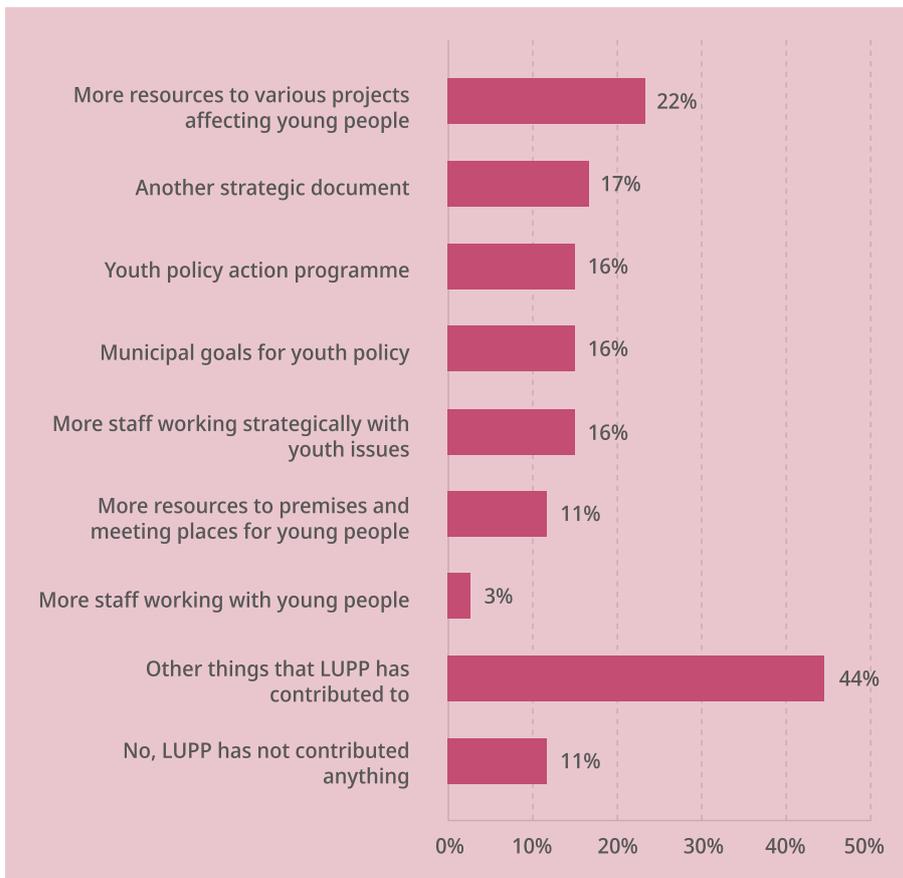


Figure 22. What has LUPP contributed to? (More than one option is possible) (Response rate: 64/64)

A mixed picture emerged from both open-ended responses in the evaluation survey and from the interviews concerning to what extent the results from LUPP reach politicians and affect policy. Several respondents, from both the survey and interviews, stated that LUPP influences policy and is an important decision basis, and that politicians often refer to LUPP.

In other municipalities, it appeared that LUPP does not have a particularly large impact on political decisions. It was stated that this is because the issues are not prioritised in the municipality and that the knowledge that LUPP generates is not disseminated upwards in the organisation. It was pointed out that it is difficult to get politicians and municipal leaders to use the results to make improvements for young people and that the results are not used as a knowledge base for prioritisations in the budget allocation. As discussed in more detail in the next section, Cross-sectoral collaboration, several interviewees and survey respondents said that the organisational base of the LUPP coordinator is decisive for the impact LUPP has and for the possibilities of the data to influence political decisions.

In Figure 23, we see that 44 per cent stated that LUPP has contributed to initiatives being implemented for young people without political decisions.

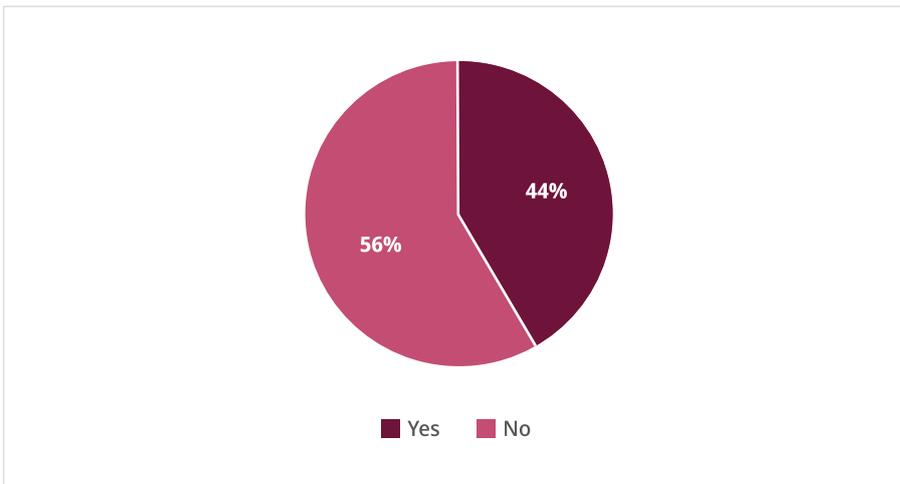


Figure 23. Has LUPP e.g. contributed to administrations, recreation centres and schools implementing initiatives for young people without political decisions? (Response rate: 64/64)

In interviews and open-ended survey responses, several examples were given of how LUPP has had a concrete impact on youth policy and youth work at the municipal level.

Requests, from the LUPP survey, regarding leisure and school holiday activities, public transport and school meals have, for example, had an impact in the municipalities. Furthermore, in several municipalities, jobs have been added in the form of youth coordinators and youth supporters. Youth supporters work e.g. with outreach efforts for young people where it has emerged that there are specific problems regarding drug use.

LUPP has provided information that the municipalities otherwise would not have had and the results highlight areas of need to work with. One of the respondents described:

Our girls were really stressed at upper secondary school and we were at the top of our county. We would not have had this information otherwise. We've worked a lot on this afterwards and tried to do something about the problem.

One interviewee related how the results in LUPP have given them new knowledge about young people's situations that they have then been able to concretely use in the municipality's work with youth issues:

We asked our own question in LUPP: 'Do you have anyone you can talk about important things with?' and cross-tabulated with those who answered that they have a parent they can talk to about mental health, and it was striking how important parents are for their children. We have since used this in presentations to parents and politicians to show how important it is to have involved parents, and have had a really good response to this.

Other examples of areas in which LUPP has influenced the work are linked

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

to security and urban planning. Several respondents noted that, based on the knowledge from LUPP, the municipalities have created working groups that have developed proposals for the municipal board on, for example, safety walks and improved lighting in public places.

4.3.1 Cross-sectoral collaboration

Figure 24 shows that nearly two-thirds answered that LUPP has contributed to increased cross-sectoral collaboration on youth issues.

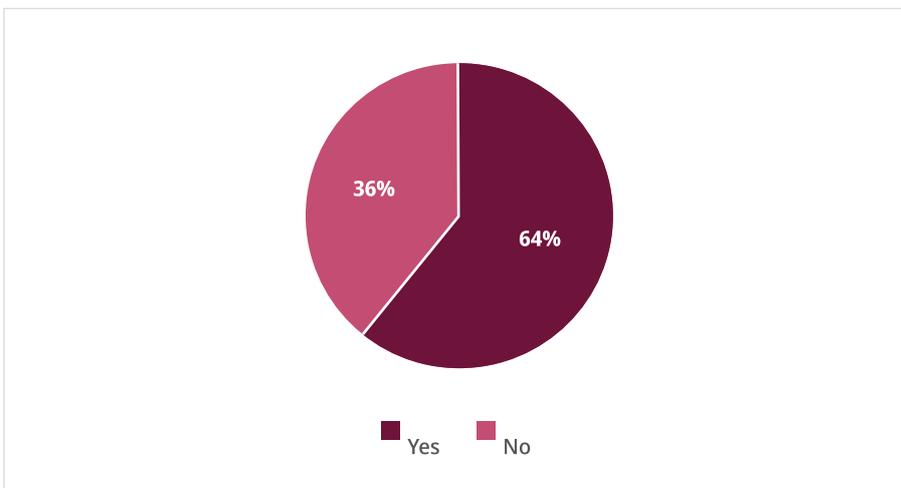


Figure 24. Has LUPP contributed to increased cross-sectoral collaboration on youth issues in your municipality/region? (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents who answered that LUPP has contributed to increased cross-sectoral collaboration answered that cross-sectoral working groups/networks have been established. One respondent noted that the results provide an opportunity to find common points of contact between the administrations. Another respondent stated that a steering committee had been created with politicians and officials from various administrations who work with youth issues. Other respondents mentioned that regional networks have been created for people with strategic tasks related to young people.

Additional respondents answered that the LUPP results are used in the various, already existing, forms of collaboration or networks that exist independently of LUPP. Some respondents stated that it was too early to answer as the results had not yet been disseminated and a discussion held.

The respondents who answered that LUPP has not contributed to increased cross-sectoral collaboration answered either that there wasn't any interest in youth issues in other administrations, that the politicians did not show an interest after presented results, or that they are stuck in an organisational silo. It was also

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

mentioned that the situation of children and young people is viewed as a school issue or a social issue instead of an overarching issue. The same problems in creating collaboration emerged in the interviews as well – that the municipalities' administrations and actors are stuck in traditional silos.

In the interviews, it emerged that there was some cross-sectoral collaboration regarding initiatives linked to young people and that LUPP has contributed to creating and maintaining forms of collaboration. One of the interviewees highlighted examples of projects with cross-sectoral collaboration in which the social welfare administration collaborates with the police, the education administration, the municipal housing company and sometimes the emergency services. They discussed youth issues and what happens in the municipality and different collaborative constellations have been created according to existing needs – based, among other things, on knowledge from LUPP.

Several interviewees and survey respondents noted that where in the municipality the LUPP managers have their organisational base is a decisive factor. It is key that the person responsible is high up in the organisation or holds a cross-sectoral position. It emerged in several interviews that if the LUPP coordinator's position is sorted under the education and child services administration, or equivalent, LUPP tends to be treated as a school issue. Youth issues thus do not get the horizontal integration needed for the perspective to permeate the municipality's work. One interviewee stated that the possibility of working cross-sectorally with LUPP improved significantly after the LUPP coordinator switched from the education and child services administration to municipal management.

4.3.2 Regional collaboration

Because the selection of interviewees for this study was made from regions in which LUPP is conducted by all municipalities, the interviews also focused on the results of working regionally with LUPP.

Dalarna adopted the strategy *Dalarna – Sweden's Best Youth Region* in 2015. The strategy was developed with the help of LUPP and the questions are included as indicators for the strategy. The region can assist in generating knowledge in the issues and contribute to collaboration by, for example, creating conditions for a region-wide network, and highlighting and disseminating good examples from the various municipalities. The region has the network 'Dimpa', which stands for Dalarna's implementation process. The network's focus is to raise competence in youth policy and strengthen the backing for youth issues locally and regionally.

As a result of Dimpa, all Dalarna municipalities have created local Dimpa groups which include one politician, one official at the executive level, and one additional official at a more operative level. The interviewees from the municipalities in Dalarna are members of this network. The network discusses how LUPP can be used and which activities can be carried out. In addition to Dimpa, there are also regional meetings attended only by youth strategists. At these meetings, there is

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

a chance to discuss specific issues in more detail. Highlighted issues include the various parts of the working process linked to LUPP and how these can best be conducted. The regional network in Dalarna has also contributed to the creation of different clusters in the network. For example, groups have been formed between municipalities that share schools, in which they jointly plan and speak with the students concerning the implementation of the survey. Furthermore, dissemination conferences are held regionally, and Region Dalarna also arranges six themed seminars based on the different LUPP areas. People with expertise in the LUPP areas are among those invited to attend the conferences and seminars.

All interviewees in Dalarna are very satisfied with the regional collaboration and emphasise that it is an important source of support and that they learn from each other in the municipality. Several interviewees say that the regional work has led to the work being prioritised locally in another way than what would have been possible by working alone locally. Especially for the smaller municipalities, this was considered to be of great importance as they do not themselves have the resources to implement corresponding initiatives.

Several interviewees in Dalarna highlighted that the collaboration surrounding the municipal developer summer job initiative has been rewarding. The young people will be employed by their municipality but also work throughout the county in collaboration with the municipal developers in the other municipalities. One of the interviewees describes the municipal developer job:

The municipal developer job has a clear connection to Agenda 2030. The politicians select three goals and then we hire young people to work with the goals. The young people choose the goal they think is most important. They then look at the statistics from LUPP and make suggestions on what the municipality needs to do to move ahead. They get to decide the way forward themselves: Are new operations or activities needed? New Visions? They can then present the results locally and we also invite others in the region to participate.

The politicians interviewed in Region Dalarna say that LUPP makes it possible to produce good comparative figures and see how the work develops over time. This enables the development of knowledge-based decision-making data that can be linked to the strategy work.

LUPP is also implemented throughout the Kalmar County region. One interviewee at the municipal level pointed out that before LUPP, they didn't have an overarching management structure in place for children's and young people's situations, but that this work instead lay with the schools or recreation centres. Making LUPP region-wide increases the opportunities to base decisions on knowledge and also helps ensure that the smaller municipalities receive more resources for their work. The decision for the entire region to implement LUPP was, according to the regional politician in Kalmar County, a decision made by the municipalities themselves.

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

There is also a regional network in Kalmar County and all contact persons in the municipalities are members. This was previously a LUPP network, but the network is now a youth and children network in which, in addition to LUPP coordinators, other officials can also participate. The Association of Municipalities owns the issue and is the convener. Among other things, the network has conducted a youth policy training course, lectures, and experience exchanges. The network has held meetings focused on various themes, such as mental illness, for example.

The interviewees from the municipalities in Kalmar County noted several advantages of region-wide collaboration. Working with LUPP throughout the region contributes to having colleagues in other municipalities, which facilitates the local LUPP work and provides new knowledge and inspiration on how one might work at the local level. Collaborations on specific initiatives have also been created between a few municipalities in Kalmar County. One of the respondents stated that joint filmmaking courses were held for young people in several municipalities, in which the young people then made a film connected to LUPP in each municipality.

In Region Kalmar County, LUPP has contributed to the region employing a person responsible for youth issues. The position includes collaborating with the municipalities and working to ensure the issues are on the political agenda in the region.

In both regions, basically only benefits of collaboration were mentioned. Benefits highlighted were that youth developers get an exchange with others in the same role, that assistance was provided in producing reports, and that the region supports those municipalities which have contracted others to perform analyses. One respondent stated that you 'don't need to reinvent the wheel' when you collaborate regionally. It was also noted that young people today are not local – they are regional and digital. The young people move throughout the county and not only in a single municipality.

One interviewee stated:

Issues related to children and young people are important and are a strategic area. Without LUPP, we wouldn't have had these discussions. We've had consultations in which the region developed a development strategy. There has been a consensus that this is important on both local and regional levels.

While the collaboration is seen as positive, it is mainly at the local level that the collaboration has had a tangible impact. It is not as clear how the work with LUPP has affected the youth issues and youth policy at the regional level. Although, as mentioned above, there were also interviewees who said that LUPP contributed to youth issues appearing more clearly on the political agenda in the region, few concrete examples were provided.

One of the politicians at the regional level pointed out that the results from LUPP were not used at the regional level as a natural part of the preparation process, which means that the knowledge is not fully used. To change this, the region

4. Results from LUPP and influence on youth policy

needs, according to the interviewee, to make managerial decisions on using the LUPP results in all preparation processes, and to ensure that the coordinating officials in the region get knowledge and tools for this. The same interviewee said that LUPP is an important tool and that the knowledge that LUPP generates could be used more strategically in the region's work and decision-making.

5. Support from MUCF

5.1 Evaluation of support from MUCF

Figure 25 shows that 88 per cent stated that they received the support they needed before and during the implementation of the LUPP survey and that 8 per cent had needed more support. This is in line with the results from 2014, in which the corresponding figures were 84 and 10 per cent, respectively. 77 per cent of the municipalities and the regions were not visited by MUCF during the LUPP work (see Figure 26).

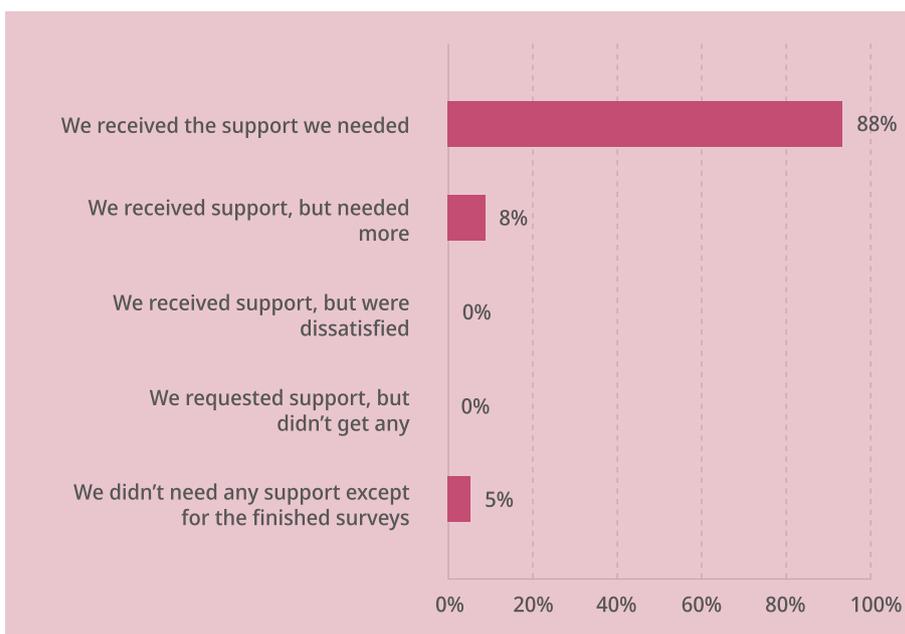


Figure 25. What do you think of MUCF's support before and during the implementation of the survey? (Response rate: 64/64)

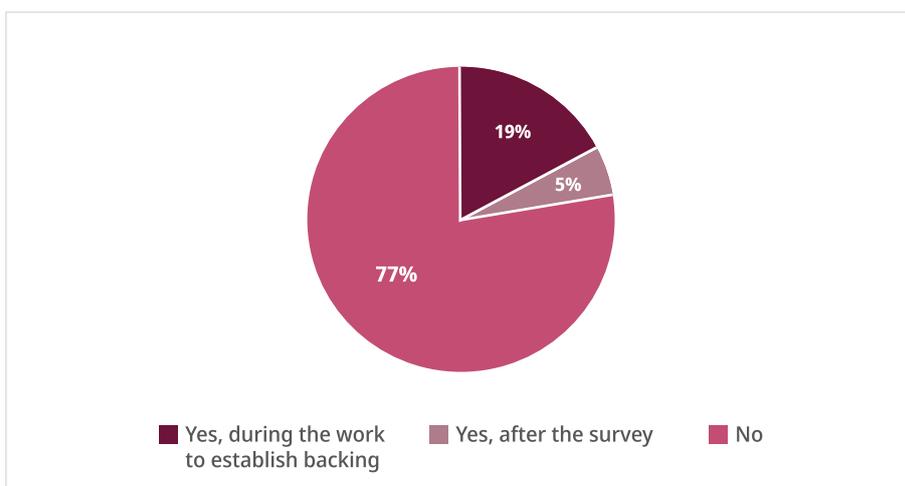


Figure 26. Has MUCF visited your municipality or region during the LUPP work? (Response rate: 64/64)

5. Support from MUCF

Figure 27 furthermore shows that all but one of the respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with MUCF's support.

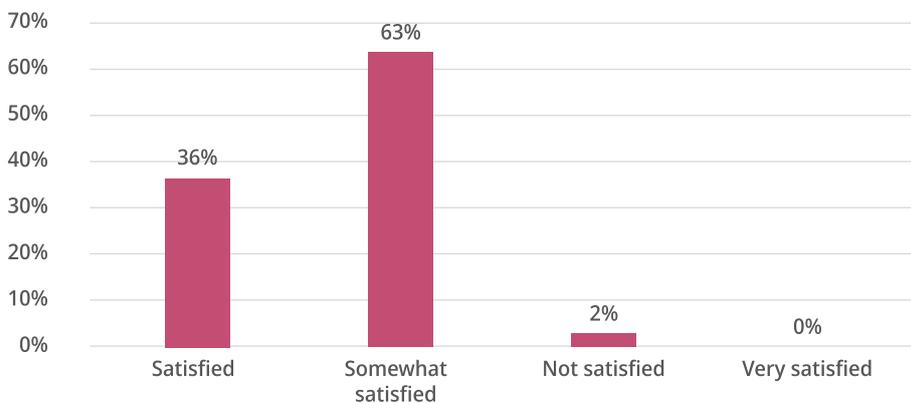


Figure 27. How satisfied are you in general with MUCF's support during the LUPP work? (Response rate: 64/64)

The respondents were also asked to respond to the open-ended question 'Do you have any suggestions on how MUCF's support to you could be improved?'. The open-ended responses confirmed the view that the support from MUCF was considered to have been good. One respondent who had used LUPP for the first time said that they always received fast feedback and relevant support. Another respondent said that the support had been very good despite the organisational changes at the Agency.

The requests mentioned in regard to MUCF's support were mainly linked to the analysis and report phase. As shown in Figure 28, about 58 per cent of the respondents feel that MUCF should help in the analysis work. This is similar to the outcome in the 2014 evaluation.

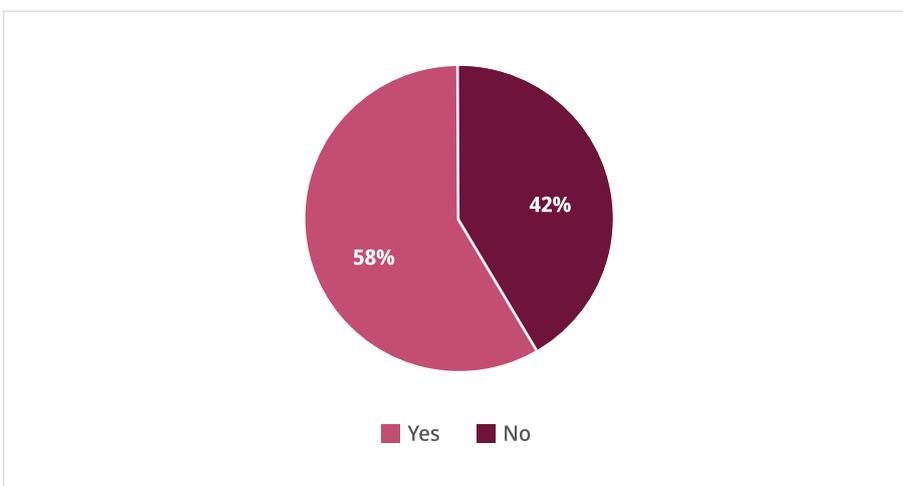


Figure 28. Do you think that MUCF should help in the analysis work? (Response rate: 64/64)

5. Support from MUCF

Requests regarding support in the analysis phase emerged in both interviews and open-ended survey responses. To the question of how the respondents feel that MUCF could help in the analysis work, several mentioned that MUCF possesses a lot of knowledge on youth issues that could be beneficial in the analysis work. One respondent requested support in putting the results in a context based on relevant and current research. Several respondents furthermore requested support in the analysis work with making comparisons over time and with other municipalities, regions or with the country as a whole.

A few respondents would prefer that MUCF performed the analyses so that all municipalities would get the same type of analysis, which can currently vary depending on economic conditions. Another suggestion provided by one respondent was that it would be desirable if it was possible to order an in-depth analysis from MUCF or get instructions that could be used when procuring results processing. One respondent in the evaluation survey proposed that MUCF analyse the results nationally and provide suggestions for actions that could be beneficial in the local analyses.

Others said that they would like more solid suggestions and ideas on how they could perform good analyses and formulate questions. There was a request from one respondent for a better analysis tool and a model for analysis that was the same for all municipalities, as well as an analysis portal containing more than only descriptive statistics. One respondent pointed out that they are quite alone in their work and would have needed to discuss the results with people who are objective yet familiar with the work. This respondent suggested that MUCF offer analysis webinars in which LUPP representatives at the municipalities could discuss the analysis work with MUCF and others implementing LUPP.

To the question about MUCF's support after the report was complete, 45 per cent answered that they didn't need any support except for the completed surveys, and a slightly smaller percentage answered that they received the support that they needed. None of the respondents stated that they requested support but didn't get it or that they received support but were dissatisfied. 13 per cent received support but had needed more.

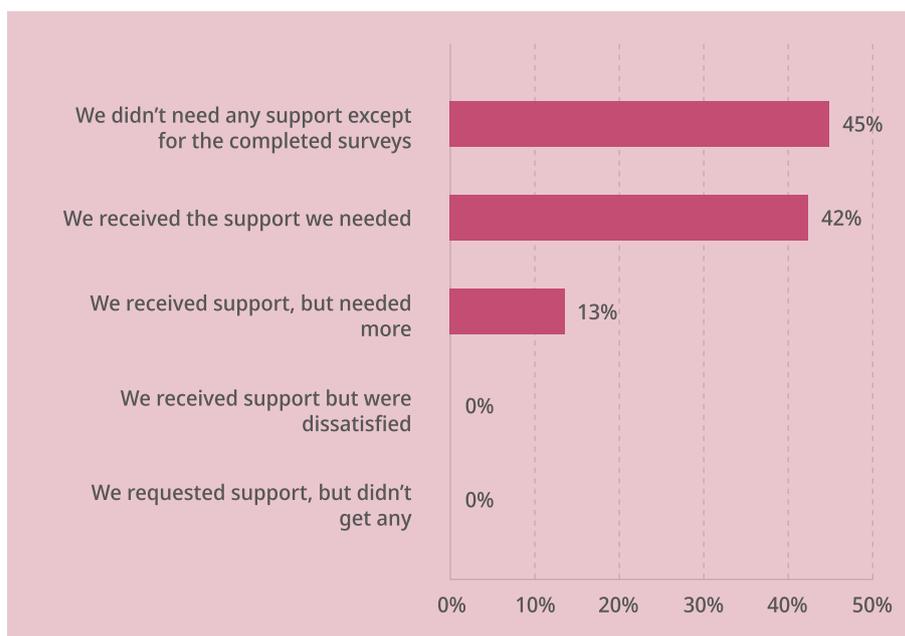


Figure 29. How do you feel about MUCF's support after the report was complete?
(Response rate: 64/64)

In the interviews with officials and politicians in Region Dalarna and Region Kalmar County, more support was requested regarding how regions could work effectively with LUPP. This because the work with LUPP on a regional level in several ways differs from the municipal work and existing supporting materials have a clear municipal focus. The interviewees stated, among other things, that the analysis on the regional level could be simplified and not require that each of the municipalities be analysed separately. Forums were also requested in which they could meet with other regions working with LUPP and e.g. exchange experience about how the results could be disseminated to enable the knowledge base to have an impact on regional policy.

5.1.1 Support in the dissemination of good examples

In both the evaluation survey and interviews, several respondents said that they would like more good and inspiring examples of how LUPP can and should be best used in the different parts of the process. Several interviewees from the municipalities emphasised that it is important to find out how other municipalities are working with the results and one of the respondents said that there is a lot of focus at the moment on the implementation itself and that the results are easily forgotten.

One interviewee stated:

It would be good to get more knowledge about municipalities in which other administrations than the schools have used and made something good of it – where

community development or culture or so on have used LUPP. This would help us to disseminate it to more administrations.

In the open-ended survey questions, one respondent requested more suggestions and tips on successful feedback work and examples of occasions in which the LUPP results have meant a positive change for the young people. Yet another respondent said that MUCF could compile good examples of how the LUPP results have been handled, disseminated, and used in different municipalities. A third respondent requested that MUCF produce comparisons between municipalities with similar conditions and that in connection with this, they could get contact details for LUPP representatives in these municipalities. The municipalities could thereby support one another in analyses and work based on the results.

MUCF's conferences were highlighted in both interviews and survey responses. One respondent noted, in the open-ended responses, that the conference prior to LUPP was good and says that they got a lot of new ideas about how the results could be disseminated and how they could create involvement in the issues within the municipality. Several interviewees were satisfied with the conferences MUCF has held so far and says that it would be beneficial if MUCF could have more meetings like this. It was also pointed out that physical meetings were not necessary, but that the meetings could instead be online, such as webinars with different themes depending on where in the process the municipalities were at. One of the interviewees described:

I would like web-based meetings with different themes, such as: 'You're about to implement LUPP' – What do you need to think about? 'You're about to disseminate reports' – What do you need to think about? It's about disseminating good examples. 'This municipality has produced a great report' – How did they do it?

5.1.2 Materials from MUCF

86 per cent of survey respondents said that they have benefited from materials provided by MUCF. 15 per cent answered that they have not used the materials or that they didn't know that they existed, which is shown in Figure 30.

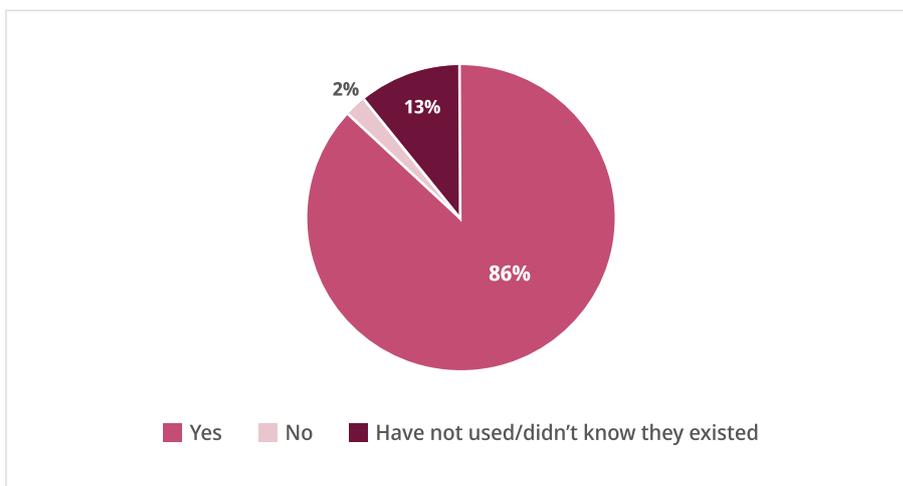


Figure 30. Have you benefited from the materials (brochures, films, website www.mucf.se, etc.) provided by MUCF? (Response rate: 64/64)

The question was supplemented with the question 'Are there any of these materials (brochures, films, website www.mucf.se etc.) that you would like to see developed? If so, how?' in which open-ended responses could be provided.

The material that most respondents had opinions about was the film about LUPP. Several respondents said that the film feels childish and that it is not adapted to the target group of young people. Opinions put forward about the film were that the young people think that the film feels belittling – 'as if the adults don't think that the young people would understand'. For this reason, several respondents wanted an updated film about LUPP that could be shown in connection with the implementation. One of the respondents highlighted the film *127 röster räknas* (127 Voices Counted) as a good example of a film for young people. This film was produced with the aim of increasing young people's voting turnout. Further opinions raised about the LUPP film were that it could be beneficial to have films aimed at different target groups and, among other things, a film tailored to different operations and administrations was requested.

In addition to the film, opinions were also raised about other materials. However, only a single respondent had opinions about other materials. For the material 'Unga i fokus' (Young People in Focus), one respondent pointed out that it could describe how to proceed during focus groups in a simpler way. Another respondent had the opinion that more teachers in the municipality would have probably used the material 'Lupp i skolan' (LUPP in the Schools) if they had received a number of printed copies per school.

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6.1 LUPP increases knowledge about young people's situations and can be an important tool for youth policy

The evaluation shows that the municipalities are satisfied overall with LUPP. Nine out of ten respondents stated in the evaluation survey that they are satisfied or very satisfied with LUPP in general, and all respondents stated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with LUPP as a tool.

The most important thing that LUPP has contributed to is knowledge about young people's living conditions and changes in this over time. Furthermore, the evaluation shows that LUPP contributes to increased awareness about the need to work in a fact-based manner on youth issues. It emerged in the evaluation that LUPP has aroused a common interest in issues for which there was previously very little collaboration, and has thus contributed to work across administrations and consensus in several municipalities. The survey also showed that 64 per cent believe that LUPP has contributed to increased cross-sectoral collaboration on youth issues in the municipality and/or region.

In the evaluation of LUPP, it emerges in both the survey and in the interviews that LUPP is seen as an important tool for youth policy. In several municipalities, LUPP has contributed to the youth perspective being more clearly included in political decisions. In the survey, 70 per cent of the respondents state that LUPP has contributed to changes in the youth policy work through increased resources to projects affecting young people, clearer collaboration, and increased interest in the issues. LUPP has also contributed to youth issues being more clearly emphasised on a strategic level. LUPP has made it possible for municipalities and regions to develop goals and indicators for youth policy work that is based on knowledge about young people's living conditions.

At the same time, Kontigo can note, primarily through the interviews, that the full potential of LUPP has not been utilised and that the tool could be influencing policy to a greater extent than it does today. The evaluation shows that analyses are not performed to the extent possible and that the knowledge base does not always reach the politicians. It also shows that the organisational base of the LUPP coordinator in the municipalities is decisive for the extent to which LUPP has the opportunity to influence policy and for youth issues to be integrated into the municipal work.

Kontigo's understanding is that LUPP is seen as an important and useful tool, but that it is not used to its full potential and that important knowledge thereby goes lost or does not have the impact that should be possible. This applies at both the municipal and regional levels. Section 6.3 highlights how the work with LUPP could be developed in order to enable more influence on local and regional youth policy.

6.2 Regional work has many advantages

The evaluation has also focused on the regional perspective. In Region Kalmar County and Region Dalarna, all municipalities conduct the LUPP survey and the regions support the municipalities in their work.

The evaluation shows that the regional work contributes with support and knowledge to the municipal LUPP coordinators. It also emerged that youth issues have been able to be given higher priority at the local level because they have received support in producing a knowledge base from the regional level. This is accomplished, among other things, through regional networks for the local LUPP coordinators.

That the issues are emphasised at the regional level also contributes to the possibility of taking a broader, regional approach to youth issues, and that the work with the issues is also emphasised in regional youth policy.

6.3 Development opportunities for LUPP identified in the evaluation

Although the evaluation shows that LUPP is a valued tool that contributes to increased prioritisation of and collaboration surrounding youth issues, it also appears that there are several areas that can be developed to help the tool reach its full potential.

The weaknesses and opportunities for development that Kontigo has identified based on the survey and interviews are summarised below.

6.3.1 Lack of interest from schools and risk of systematic dropout

The majority of the interviewees stated that the biggest difficulties in implementing LUPP lay in getting out to the schools and getting the students to complete the survey. It emerged that survey fatigue among the schools is high, that it is difficult to book times to conduct LUPP in the schools, and that response rates have dropped over time.

The evaluation indicates difficulties in establishing backing for the survey among schools and students before implementation, and in providing feedback of the results and the changes LUPP has contributed to. Kontigo believes that both the establishment of backing before and the provision of feedback after the survey are of great importance so as to not risk increased dropout rates in the survey study.

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Clearly presenting the results of the survey responses for the young people and demonstrating the concrete initiatives they lead to can increase the motivation to complete the survey.

An increased survey dropout rate does not need to be a critical problem, however, as long as the dropouts are random. If the dropouts are systematic, though, this leads to problems because it means that parts of the population being measured are not represented. The evaluation indicates that the charter schools are particularly difficult to reach. If the charter school students have special characteristics, such as another socio-economic background or gender composition, for example, than the rest of the population, this could lead to incorrect conclusions about young people being drawn, as certain groups of students are not represented in the survey.

The risk that certain groups are not represented in LUPP is discussed further below.

6.3.2 Long and difficult survey provides breadth but also risks not capturing all groups' perspectives

The evaluation shows that many students think that the survey is too long and difficult to complete. In the opinion of Kontigo, this chiefly contributes to two problems: that certain target groups are not represented as well as other groups, and that the answers to the questions risk not providing an accurate picture of young people because the survey has an internal dropout. Yet one of the strengths of LUPP, which was also emphasised in the evaluation, is that the survey provides knowledge on a wide range of issues and is more in-depth and comprehensive than many other surveys.

As the survey is perceived as long and difficult, there are groups of students who have less opportunity to complete it than others. The evaluation shows that special education schools and students with special needs have more difficulty completing the survey. This risks leading to systematic dropouts, which means that the results of LUPP do not provide a complete picture and that the views of important groups are lost.

People who do not read Swedish fluently may also have difficulty understanding the survey questions, which could cause an incorrect picture to be gleaned from the responses. However, it should be pointed out here that the survey was offered in several other languages in addition to Swedish, which thus increases the chances that the survey is filled in correctly.

That the survey was considered too long may also have the consequence that the young people do not take the time to complete the entire survey properly. The evaluation showed that there are indicators that students sometimes, toward the end of the survey, stop answering the questions or answer without reading the

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questions or thinking through their responses properly. This could also lead to the end users of LUPP forming an opinion about the young people that does not match the true situation. This is furthermore particularly problematic if it concerns certain groups, such as persons with disabilities or those who do not read Swedish fluently, who get tired of taking the survey, and this internal dropout also generates a systematic dropout.

Suggestions emerged in the evaluation that the survey should be shortened, or that it could be divided up and taken on several different occasions.

6.3.3 Some survey questions are considered out of date

In the interviews and the evaluation survey, it was highlighted that certain questions in the LUPP survey were perceived as a bit out of date. Among those mentioned were questions concerning young people's interests and hobbies, where more options were requested in connection with Internet and computer use. Because the use of the Internet and computers has increased over time, the questions should be better tailored to what the young people do on the Internet. The existing response options are viewed, by some, as too general and outdated. Questions and response options concerning drug use were also emphasised as being not entirely up to date and not capturing how the young people actually get hold of, and use, drugs today.

At the same time, the evaluation shows that comparability between the years is important and is viewed as an asset. The questions should thus be updated with caution.

6.3.4 The municipalities' opportunities to analyse and disseminate the results vary, which affects the impact of LUPP

Knowledge, tools, and economic resources to analyse the LUPP results, produce reports and disseminate the results vary greatly between the municipalities. Smaller municipalities in particular often have limited opportunities to use LUPP as it is intended. The likelihood of the youth issues being prioritised and of LUPP contributing a knowledge base for policy is thereby reduced.

The evaluation shows that overall, the municipalities are satisfied with the support from MUCF and say that they get the help they want quickly. Yet municipalities and regions also request additional support from MUCF in how analyses and reports can be produced. One thing mentioned was analysis webinars from MUCF, which some municipal LUPP representatives would appreciate. It also emerged that LUPP representatives at the municipalities would like increased

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knowledge and inspiration from other municipalities in how they can work with LUPP throughout the process.

Kontigo observes that parts of this evaluation can be used to exemplify how municipalities have worked and which results this has led to. The material should also be developed further, with more examples for the different stages in the process. The evaluation furthermore shows, as noted above, that region-wide work with LUPP increases the chances for the municipalities to work strategically to produce the analyses and reports needed, and to disseminate these.

6.3.5 Technology and materials can be improved and adapted

The evaluation shows that there is a range of development opportunities regarding technical tools and materials connected to LUPP. Among other things, a request was made to develop the tool to make it easier to perform cross-tabulations and to filter the searches for multiple variables at the same time, such as gender, country of birth, and sexual orientation. Another request was for an easier way to make comparisons between years and with other municipalities – especially those of similar size, in the same municipal group or with similar socio-economic conditions. Making regional comparisons and being able to easily produce joint reports for all municipalities that conducted the survey in a region/county was also requested.

It furthermore emerged that the information video about LUPP is not considered suitable for the target group of young people and is instead perceived to be directed more at younger children. This can influence the young people's attitudes towards completing the survey. The evaluation also shows that there is a request for information videos targeting different recipients – students, politicians, officials at various administrations.

7. Kontigo's recommendations to MUCF

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Several of the areas for development identified in the evaluation are of a clearly local nature and are difficult for MUCF to influence. Below are a number of recommendations that Kontigo believes MUCF has the power to influence, and which can contribute to LUPP having a greater impact and contributing further to local and regional youth policy.

- Look into the possibility of making it easier for young people to understand and complete the LUPP survey. This is both to reduce the risk of systematic survey dropouts of certain groups (students in special education schools, young people with intellectual and mental disabilities, etc.), and to reduce the risk that the questions at the end of the survey are just filled in casually (internal dropout).
- Produce informational materials with good examples of how LUPP can be used in all parts of the process. This evaluation can serve as basis for these materials. The information could also be supplemented with fictitious examples of how LUPP is intended to be used and to influence at all levels.
- Look into the possibility of informing the country's regions about region-wide work with LUPP. Highlight the benefits generated by region-wide work and which are emphasised in this report.
- Produce supporting materials for municipalities and regions for analyses and reports. Look into the possibility of offering e.g. webinars focusing on analysis.
- Look into the possibility of offering technical solutions in the LUPP Portal to enable easier production of cross-tabulations, comparisons with other municipalities, reports for the regional level, etc.
- Review the film about LUPP and see if it is possible to produce more films that feel less 'childish' and which can also be directed at additional target groups, such as e.g. politicians and officials at various administrations.

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At the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, the conditions of young people and civil society are in focus. We cultivate knowledge that decision-makers use when they prioritise initiatives for young people and for civil society.

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