

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Country information on youth policies**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **ESTONIA, 2005**

### **1 Statistics on young people**

#### **1.1 Total number of young people in global population**

360 299 *young persons*

#### **1.2 Percentage of young people in global population**

26,57 %

#### **1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets**

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4,82 %	4,68 %	4,58 %	4,24 %	4,14 %	4,12 %

#### **1.4 Percentage of young people by gender**

Male	Female
29,29 %	24,24 %

#### **1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets**

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	5,36 %	5,16 %	5,07 %	4,68 %	4,55 %	4,47 %
Male	4,35 %	4,26 %	4,16 %	3,86 %	3,86 %	3,82 %

#### **1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population**

7,78 %

#### **1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population**

25,29 %

#### **1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population**

18,79 %

#### **1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population**

27,14 %

#### **1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population**



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22,4 %

## 1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/A *persons*

## 2 Actors and structures

### 2.1 National public authorities

#### 2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research

Name of minister

Mr Toivo Maimets

Duration of mandate

48 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

5 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Mr Ardo Rohtla ; adviser ; (ardo.rohtla@hm.ee)

Function, role and competence of youth department

The youth department shall: 1) prepare the national programmes of youth work; 2) support the activities of youth associations and allocate annual grants thereto; 3) monitor the purposeful use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget; 4) co-ordinate the organisation of recreational holidays for young people; 5) co-ordinate the provision of information for and counselling of young people; 6) prepare an overview of the results and studies of youth work; 7) perform other functions provided by law, regulations of the Government of the Republic and the statutes of the Ministry of Education.

#### 2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

Council of Students in the Ministry of Education and Research #to involve the pupils and students in to the decision making process. Council of Youth Politics in the Ministry of Education and Research - to advise the ministry of youth affairs, to involve the target groups to processes.

Council of Crime Prevention in the Ministry of Justice # the co-ordinating body for state crimepreventional programme. The round tables in the Estonian Youth Work Centre - to co-ordinate the actions in Estonian Youth Work subfields as international work, information or etc.

#### 2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Parliament Culture commission in charge of jurisdiction and politics in higher level. The Commission takes responsibility for legal acts # ( preparation of drafts) in culture, education and research areas. The chairman is mr. Olav Aarna.



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### **2.1.4 Other national public authorities**

The Estonian Youth Work Centre (EYWC). The EYWC director is mr. Toomas Ponkin.

## **2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities**

### **2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field**

By Youth Work Act our county governors shall: 1) co-ordinate the drafting and implementation of the national youth policy in the counties; 2) exercise supervision over the use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget in the counties; 3) organise the provision of information for and counselling of young people in the counties by way of entering into a contract with a legal or natural person for the provision of the specified service.

### **2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field**

Youth centres (about 120) and public information and counselling centres (about 25) Hobby education institutions- 203 different NGOs # ca 150 (by opinion of Estonian Youth Organisation Union about 60 of them are actively taken part of youth work development process)

## **2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation**

### **2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field**

Not any which must be certainly consulted.

## **2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation**

### **2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field**

Pupils and student council by the Ministry of Education: structural body established by the Minister of Education composed of delegates from the Estonian School Student Council Union and Federation of Estonian Student Unions. The structures for youth participation are in different forms and stages of development in different local and regional authorities depending mainly on the status and level of development of youth work. The following types of structures can be mentioned: # Local and regional youth councils: generally these are cooperation bodies for local and/or regional youth organisations. The approximate number: 2 # Youth parliaments: movement initiated by young people usually involving representatives of student councils, youth organisations, individual young people. Number: 6 # Local youth work commissions by local government councils: structural bodies of local government councils, members include politicians, youth workers, youth organisations. Number: 3

### **2.4.2 National and regional youth councils**

There is the Youth Work Council as an inter-sectorial and consultative body of the Ministry of Education including members from different ministries and youth associations. The Estonian Youth



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Work Council is the main body that implements the youth policy in Estonia.

### 2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

Estonian Scout Association and Estonian Guides Association; Estonian 4H; Estonian Peer Pupils Movement; Estonian Red Cross Organisation; Estonian Open Republic (mostly for the students self-governments from Russian speaking schools in Estonia); Estonian YWCA #YMCA.

### 2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

In Estonian Youth Centre are 8 round tables consulting for specialist in different fields in youth work (separated by Estonian Youth Work concept): 1) Special Youth Work; 2) Hobby Education; 3) Information about youth, for youth, counselling, studies; 4) Youth Work Training; 5) Developmental and recreational holidays; 6) Upbringing for labour market; 7) International youth work; 8) Structure of youth work and participation of youth. Those work groups could ensure that the activities of different institutions and the specialists and partners experiences meet national standards. They could initiate discussions in necessary areas, to give an overview of good practice to Ministry and share this among each other.

### 2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres (Marion Bobkov, ank@ank.ee; www.ank.ee) Estonian National Youth Council ( phone +372 661 6487; enl@enl.ee ; www.enl.ee) NGO the Association of Estonian Youth Work Councillors (Ott Rootare and Kadi Bruus; kadi@viimsivv.ee) Self-Governments Association in Estonia (Kristel Niisuke; kristel@escu.ee ; www.escu.ee)

### 2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

Estonian National Committee for UNICEF (Toomas Palu; unicef@unicef.ee; www.unicef.ee) Estonian Children Foundation (Sirje Grossman-Loot; www.elf.ee) Estonian Union for Child Welfare ( Alar Tamm; liit@lastekaitseliit.ee; www.lastekaitseliit.ee)

## 3 Legislation

### 3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Pursuant to the Constitution (and the other laws) the fundamental rights of the people are guaranteed (chapter II fundamental rights, liberties, duties). According to the Constitution, the family, being fundamental to the preservation and growth of the nation and as the basis of society shall be protected by the state (art.27). Parents have the right and the duty to raise and care for their children. The protection of parents and children shall be provided by law. Every child whose parent (at least one) is Estonian citizen has the right for Estonian citizenship by birth. No one shall be deprived of Estonian citizenship acquired by birth (art.8). Some additional extracts: Everyone shall have the right for education. Education shall be compulsory for school-age children to the extent specified by law, and free of school fees in state and local government general education schools (art.37). All people shall exercise their supreme power through citizens who have the right



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to vote by electing the Parliament and participating in referenda (art.56) and the right to vote shall belong to every Estonian citizen who has attained the age of 18 (art.57). Citizens of the Republic of Estonia shall be obligated to participate in national defense, in accordance with the bases and procedures determined by law (art.124).

### **3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**

The Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms are applied completely. According article 130 the Estonian Constitution is stipulating more protection over fundamental rights as is minimum in the Declaration.

### **3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights**

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Republic of Estonia Child Protection Act was adopted in 1992 [a new version in 2004]. Pursuant this law child protection is based on the principle that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration at all times and in all cases. Every child is an inherent right to life, health, development, work and well-being. The child has an inherent right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and experience. The child has the right and shall be accorded the opportunity to seek, receive and impart humanistic information and to engage in organisations and movements. The social rights of the child may only be restricted on such bases as are provided by law, taking into consideration all matters including: protect the rights of other persons, including protection of reputation, if the actions of child are apparently wrongful or malicious; protect public order, morals and health; guarantee the child's own development.

### **3.4 National legislation on youth**

The General Part of the Civil Code Act distinguishes between passive legal capacity and active legal capacity, according which persons shall be guaranteed the status as a subject of law pursuant to their age. Passive legal capacity begins with the live birth of a human being and ends with death. An adult person has active legal capacity. A person who has attained eighteen years of age is adult. A minor between seven and eighteen years of age has restricted active legal capacity. The minor has the right to enter into transactions with the consent of his or her legal representative. A minor under the age of seven is with out active legal capacity. Transactions in the name of the minor shall be entered into by his or her legal representative. The Family Law Act ordains that a person who has attained eighteen years of age is of age to marry. A minor between fifteen and eighteen years of age may marry with the written consent of his or her parents or guardian. If even one of the mentioned persons does not consent to the marriage, a court may grant permission to marry. The Family Law Act prescribes also the guarantee of interests of the child. In hearing a dispute concerning a child, a supervisory guardian or court shall proceed from the interests of child, considering the wishes of a child who is at least ten years of age. The wishes of child shall be considered in the issues relating to the adoption as well as to the change of the



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given name or surname and in other issues.

### 3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

The Constitution regulates the activities of the government of the Republic and local authorities. Therefore, the administration structure in Estonia has two levels. At the same time the Government has delegated some of its responsibilities to county governors, who are regional representatives of central authority. The county governor has its own local administration. Pursuant the Youth Work Act county governors shall: co-ordinate the drafting and implementation of the national youth policy in the counties; The strategies of the counties are contained also youth actions, but there is no special legislation in this level. The Youth Work Act contains an amendment to the Local Government Organization Act # the responsibility of youth work was added to the list of responsibilities of local authorities # i.e. cities and rural municipalities. Pursuant to the Youth Work Act rural municipality and city councils determine the priorities of youth work in their administrative territories. The local government decides which objectives of youth work and to which extent shall be implemented in its territory. The Youth Work Act does not impose any restrictions, it only provides that upon preparation of the development plan representatives of youth associations must be included. Most of the local authorities are involved in youth work via their county governments.

### 3.6 Guidelines

The Youth Work Act came into force 1 April 1999. In the autumn of the same year, after the 1st Estonian Youth Work Forum, the development of the #Estonian Youth Work Concept# and the #Estonian Youth Work Development Plan for 2001-2004# were launched in co-operation between various interest groups. The documents were approved by the Government in 2001. According to the concept, youth work means creation of conditions for developing activities for young people outside the formal education, family and work. The concept, development plan and action plans of youth work in the form of an agreement between different interest groups provide a systematic basis for the performance of youth work in Estonia. The next Estonian Youth Work Development Plan is in the preparation process.

## 4 Programmes

### 4.1 European programmes

There are 3 main programmes- Youth for Europe, Socrates and Leonardo. The co-ordinative body is Archimedes Foundation from 1997.

#### 4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Programme consultant Ülly Enn in the duties of Director in Estonian Youth for Europe National Agency (e-mail: [ully@noored.ee](mailto:ully@noored.ee); phone + 372 6979221)

#### 4.1.2 Eurodesk

Project Leader Hannes Sildnik (e-mail: [eurodesk@eurodesk.ee](mailto:eurodesk@eurodesk.ee); phone: + 372 6419678)



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### 4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The YOUTH programme offers possibilities to young people in the form of both group exchanges and individual voluntary work as well as support activities. There are 5 subprogrammes as follows: 1. International youth exchanges and youth seminars (15-25 years of age); 2. European voluntary Service (18-25 years of age); 3. Youth initiative projects and contact network projects (15-25 years of age) and capital projects for the future (target group from the graduates p 2); 4. Common measures for the programmes of Youth for Europe and Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates (for the institutions); 5. Supportive measures (for the persons working with youth and the organizations). There are also named the programs-states who could be the project partners from European states, from Caucasian and Mediterranean area or from Latin-America. The financing of programme is based on the state endowment and the allowance from Phare. The every day activities lead by Estonian Youth for Europe National Agency and European Commission.

### 4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

To participate in the legislative process of the EU, the Ministry of Education and Research has established an internal unit that coordinates EU-related information - the European Union Office of the Ministry of Education and Research (hereinafter EUOMER). The EUOMER was formed retroactively as of 1 January 2003 as an independent division of the Public and Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Education and Research. The main task of the Office is to coordinate cooperation and exchange of information in order to ensure timely development of national positions regarding education, training, science, youth and recognition of professional qualifications with regard to draft EU legislation.

## 4.2 National Programmes on youth

The development plan was prepared parallel to the Youth Work Concept of Estonia. The development plan describes youth work activities for years 2001-2004 by fields. The youth work development plan has stated the trends of eight fields of youth work. The development plan creates a uniform understanding of desirable outcomes for all people involved in youth work, for youth as the target group, but also to other interest groups in the society who are more or less connected with youth work. "Youth work development plan for 2001-2004" includes the most important activities within the following fields of youth work: 1. Special youth work 2. Hobby education 3. Information on youth and for youth, counseling, studies 4. Youth work training 5. Developmental and recreational holidays for youth 6. Employment of young people 7. International co-operation 8. Structures of youth work and youth participation Today there are continuing work with the new developmental plan of Estonian youth policy.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people

The strategic documents that influence the fields of youth work are as follows: 1. Estonian educational strategy 2. National crime prevention strategy 3. The fundamentals of the cultural strategy of the Estonian state 4. Estonian social development strategy 5. National program "Integration in Estonian society in 2000-2007" 6. National program "Alcohol and Drug prevention program for 1997-2007" 7. Estonian regional development strategy In #Estonian National



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Development Plan for the Implementation of the EU Structural Funds: Single Programming Document 2004-2006# is a priority to development of human recourse. Among those activities are non-formal education actions, so youth work has been supported through the Plan.

## 5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth  
The National Health Programme of Children and Adolescents from 1996 until 2005 aim is to address children and adolescents health problems comprehensively and to find solutions that would provide the younger generation an opportunity to become healthy and active members of the society. The National Programme for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction for 1997-2007 aim is the reduction of damage resulting from consumption of alcohol and drugs and drafting policies on drugs and alcohol which would ensure co-ordinated prevention activities on international, national and local level.

## 6 Budget

### 6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

4174615 *Euros*

### 6.2 Main beneficiaries

E.g. from the state budget the Ministry of Education provides (2002): - Grants for youth programmes and youth projects of youth associations; - Annual grants for youth associations, the membership of which includes at least 500 young persons and the local units of which operate in the territory of at least one third of the counties (decisions are made by the Youth Work Council); - Grants for national and regional programmes of youth work; - Grants for agencies which organise youth work; - Grants for international youth work; - Grants for training youth workers; - YOUTH Programme; - Estonian Youth Work Centre; Through the Gambling Tax Council: - Different projects of non-governmental youth projects; - Camps and recreation activities; - Projects of Estonian Children's Union. Apart from the State grants there are other sources of financing.

### 6.3 Tendencies

Financing is less successful sphere in Estonian youth work, nowadays we don't have financial scheme directed to local authorities, but this could be the successful plan for future. The state budget has been increasing year by year, but the local authorities budgets do not been the specified amount of money for youth work.

## 7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.



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In Estonia youth work is historically understood as a working area which is closely connected to formal education institutions: there is to be a school youth worker at every school. Especially at the rural areas the schools are expected to organise leisure time activities in addition to regular studies. In recent years growing attention has been paid to the developments at local level, like structures and programmes to support youth participation and open youth centres. Several Estonian traditional working forms of youth work like youth summer camps and hobby education schools (concentrated at music, art, dance etc) are going through renewing process in order to better fulfil the needs of young people. The Estonian Youth Council (founded by 26 stronger youth organisations on 19 May 2002) gives a valuable contribution to discussions about future of Estonian youth work.

### **8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities**

In May 2005 are coming the III Estonian Youth Forum where will be discussed all OMC priorities throught Estonian practice. By plan there will be accepted Estonian next development plan in youth policy, called " The Strategy of Estonian youth policy and youth work for 2006-2013". Among the future priorities will be youth participation, youth informing and counselling, researches, intercultural learning etc.

### **9 Useful links**

Estonian Ministry of Education and Science - [www.hm.ee](http://www.hm.ee) Estonian Social Science ON LINE - <http://www.psych.ut.ee/esta/esta.html> Eesti NYC ehk National Youth Council - [www.enl.ee](http://www.enl.ee)

### **10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)**

Nowadays Estonia tries to build out an integrated youth policy. There are different ministries and subdivisions connected with youth, e.g. ministry for Social welfare, of internal affairs, of Justice, of Culture. For youth affairs are responsible ministry of Education and Research, which coordinates and works out youth policy. Estonia is quite successful in fields of: Participation and especially youth participation: there are special financial grants for youth NGOs, supporting their administrative and operating costs; by minister of education and research work two representative advise bodies with young#s majority, namely Student#s and pupil#s Council and Youth Policy Council; National Youth Council is a good and recognized partner for youth affairs authorities; different youth umbrella organizations are recognized as partners in working out and implementation of youth policies and youth work policies; since 1999. Every three years is organized The National Youth Work Forum with regional sub forums, with aim to discuss on youth policy and youth work development; in year 2004 were officially formed (have worked since 2003) national youth work round tables, with aim to evaluate and discuss on development of youth work



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during the year. In year 2004 was awarded by National State Officials Forum as best participatory project of the year . Information: Estonia is a member of European youth information network EURODESK and ERYICA. There are 17 regional youth information centers. International relations: Estonia is very active in youth policy cooperation in EU and Council of Europe levels as well as very important role plays bilateral cooperation between Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Flemish Belgium Financing is less successful sphere, nowadays we don't have financial scheme directed to local authorities, but there're a lot undertaken: there are special financial grants for youth NGOs and youth work NGOs from state budget; grants for youth projects from Gambling tax foundation; state grants for local open youth centers; special support for regional youth information centers and youth camps.



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