

Council of Europe  
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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# COUNTRY SHEET

## ON YOUTH POLICY IN ESTONIA



Last updated: 15.11.2010

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## 1. Statistics on young people as of 01.01.2010, Source: Statistics Estonia

### Number of young people in population

	<b>Age group</b>			
	<b>10-14</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>
Boys	31 481	41 748	54 479	51 585
Girls	29 785	39 699	52 184	50 443

Total population 1 340 127

### Percentage of young people in population

	<b>Age group</b>			
	<b>10-14</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>
Boys	2,35%	3,12%	4,07%	3,85%
Girls	2,22%	2,96%	3,89%	3,76%

Number and Percentage of young people with a different nationality ("migration background").  
N.A.

## 2. Actors and Structures

### 2.1 Public authorities

#### 2.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: **Ministry of Research and Education**

- Minister: Mr. Tõnis Lukas

- Duration of mandate: 48 months (the term ends in March 2011)

#### **Youth Department in the Ministry of Education and Research**

- Main tasks of the Youth department:

- Preparation of the national programmes of youth work,
- support to activities of youth associations and allocation of annual grants thereto and monitoring of the purposeful use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget,
- co-ordination of the organisation of recreational holidays for young people,
- provision of information for and counselling of young people,
- preparation of an overview of the results and studies on the topic of youth work.

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 6

- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry

Ms. Anne Kivimäe, Acting head of youth affairs department, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, anne.kivimae@hm.ee

- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy

Ms. Anne Kivimäe, Acting head of youth affairs department, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, anne.kivimae@hm.ee

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- Other Ministries

Ministry of Justice, [http://www.just.ee/?set\\_lang\\_id=2](http://www.just.ee/?set_lang_id=2)

Ministry of Defence, <http://www.mod.gov.ee/en>

Ministry of Culture, <http://www.kul.ee/index.php?lang=en>

Ministry of Social Affairs, <http://www.sm.ee/eng.html>

Ministry of the Environment, [http://www.envir.ee/?set\\_lang\\_id=2](http://www.envir.ee/?set_lang_id=2)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en>

Ministry of Internal Affairs, <http://www.siseministeerium.ee/?lang=en>

- Offices

**Eesti Noorsootöö Keskus** (Estonian Youth Work Centre), [www.entk.ee](http://www.entk.ee), is a national center for youth work under the administrative authority of the Ministry of Education and Research and its main objective is to develop and organise youth work in the framework of the national youth policy. It:

- Implements the Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013 and performs other functions arising from the Youth Work Act and other relevant laws.
- Develops international cooperation
- Coordinates networking activities
- Implements the program „Developing youth work quality“
- Awards and recognises the professional qualifications of youth workers
- Recognises the knowledge and skills acquired through youth work
- Assess the quality of youth work

- Finances projects and programs
- Manages the Kloogaranna youth camp
- Organises the Youth Information Fair „Teeviit“

**Euroopa Noored (Youth in Action Estonian Agency)**, [euroopa.noored.ee](http://euroopa.noored.ee), [www.noored.ee](http://www.noored.ee), is the body which is responsible for international youth work but carries out also other functions at national level: it supports and finances youth exchanges, volunteer service, youth initiatives and training of youth workers.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Name: **Cultural Affairs Committee (Kultuurikomisjon)**, <http://www.riigikogu.ee/?id=34645>
- Name of president / chair: Mr. Peeter Kreitzberg
- Role and competence: The Committee conducts as leading committee the proceeding of culture-, education- and research-related draft Acts, draft resolutions and statements of the Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament) and Acts of ratification of or accession to international conventions and agreements.

### **2.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

The Constitution regulates the activities of the government of the Republic and local authorities. Therefore, the administration structure in Estonia has two levels: national level and local level. 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:

- 1) co-ordinate implementation of the national youth policy in the county;
- 2) analyse youth work in the county and prepare overviews of youth work;
- 3) supervise use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget;
- 4) fulfil other functions arising from legislation.

The strategies of the counties contain also a section on youth, but there is no legislation at this level.

Pursuant to the Youth Work Act, rural municipality and city councils:

- 1) determine the priorities of youth work in their administrative territories and set out the tasks necessary for the achievement thereof in the rural municipality or city development plans;
- 2) work out the order for granting financial support to youth organisations;
- 3) in presence of financial means, offer financial support to youth organisations;
- 4) consult local youth council in youth work matters;
- 5) prepare the order of project camps at the territory of the municipality;
- 6) perform other functions connected with the organisation of youth work in their administrative territories.

The local government decides objectives of youth work that shall be implemented in its territory as well as determines methods for that. The Youth Work Act does not impose restrictions on possible objectives, it only provides that upon preparation of the development plan, representatives of youth associations must be included.

There is country government in each of the 15 counties and each of the county governments employs one chief expert on youth work. County governments also employ officials who, among other duties, carry out duties related to youth affairs: education and schooling, sports, cultural events, social assistance, delinquent behaviour, youth with special needs.

Providing information and counselling to youth is a responsibility of county government. Currently there are altogether 21 youth information and counselling centres in Estonia. In addition, there are a number of web-portals that offer young people information on different aspects of their lives and support decisions in different areas (leisure and hobbies, studies, work and career, volunteering and going abroad, health and sex).

### **2.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

The main level of organisation of youth work is local government, which often delegates its youth work duties to the third sector by outsourcing certain services, if possible. Budgets of local governments appear amongst main sources to finance youth work. Pursuant to the Youth Work Act and the Local Governments Organisation Act, a local government is responsible for the organisation of youth work in its administrative territory. In many municipalities, open youth centres are central institutions for carrying out youth work. Youth centres are managed either by local government or by private organisation but most of them receive most of financial means from local governments.

Local governments also deal with crime prevention through committees of legal protection, social issues, children and welfare issues, education, culture, sports, etc. The main coordinators of the issues of juvenile crime prevention are committees of juvenile issues formed in counties (in all 15 counties), in local municipalities, town governments and city district governments of the capital Tallinn (52) under the Juvenile Sanctions Act.

Local governments and city district governments in Tallinn appear amongst important sites for youth participation.

## **2.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

By law, health insurance covers pupils enrolled in elementary education level until 21 years of age and pupils enrolled in secondary education level until 24 years of age, individuals enrolled in vocational education programs, students enrolled in an tertiary education institution. Costs of health insurance are covered by Estonian Health Insurance Fund ([www.haigekassa.ee/eng](http://www.haigekassa.ee/eng)).

By law, children who attain 7 years of age by 1 October of the current year are subject to the obligation to attend school. Students are subject to the obligation to attend school until they acquire basic education or attain 17 years of age. Acquisition of basic education in state and municipal schools is without tuition i.e it is financed from national and local budget.

For individuals of at least 18 years of age and without having finished elementary level, state-financed vocational training is available.

Career counselling is coordinated and developed by the National Resource Centre for Guidance of the Foundation for Lifelong Learning Development Innove.

In Estonia, many college students take study loan. The state does cover parts of the repayments of the loan interest to bank; and also offers surety ship to young people with fewer opportunities who could not otherwise get access to study loans.

Few years ago, the institution of student home was established. Student homes provide living space for youths coming from families which have been proved to be unable to provide environment necessary for a normal development of a child. Children from such families can stay in student

homes which are financed from national budget. Selection to the student homes is made on case by case bases, there is no universal rule for selecting children to stay at student homes.

The Estonian Ministry of Culture does finance various programs which are aimed at developing young peoples creative and artistic skills. The ministry also finances sport programs aimed at improving health and functional condition of young people as well as at supporting top competitive athletes. The Ministry of Culture does also 'host' program Leonardo da Vinci, which is an Europe-wide program aimed at improving vocational education and skills of young people. The program offers finance to organizations involved in the area of vocational training and education.

There are support measures to people with children. The measures include maternity or fraternity leave and various financial supports. Women are entitled to paid leave 70 days before and 70 after giving birth to a child, upon medical indication, the period can be extended to 154 days; unemployed, including students are not entitled to paid leave. Fathers are entitled to 14 day leave during the 140 day ante- and post-partum leave of the women. Payments range from one-time payment on the event of giving birth to regular payments depending on age of a child / children and number of children in educational system. In addition to national payments, most local governments have instituted local payments. Also, tax exemptions depend on the number and age of children.

### **2.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

**Noortepoliitika Nõukogu (The Council of Youth Policies)** advises the Minister of Education and Research in youth issues. The Council is chaired by the Minister and consists of representatives of:

- 7 youth associations,
- Union of open youth centers,
- Estonian Union for Child Welfare,
- Association of Estonian Cities,
- Association of Municipalities of Estonia,
- Estonian Youth Work Center,
- Association of Estonian Youth Workers,
- The Estonian Chamber of Disabled People,
- Youth in Action Estonian agency.

The Council has the following tasks:

- Analyse, develop and evaluate national strategic documents in the youth field;
- Work out proposals for financial decision in the youth field;
- Work out proposals for international cooperation in the youth field;
- Advice the Minister in youth issues;
- Support working out Estonian positions on youth issues in a wider European contexts.

**Eesti Noorsootöötajate Ühendus (Estonian Association of Youth Councilors)**, [www.eny.org.ee](http://www.eny.org.ee), is an organisation which unites professional as well as volunteer youth councilors in Estonia. Its main goal is to develop local, regional and national level youth work, arrange activities for its members and help to develop life of young people in Estonia.

**Eesti Üliõpilaskondade Liit (Federation of Estonian Student Unions)**, <http://www eyl ee> was founded in 1991, shortly after Estonia regained independence. EYL currently represents

over 90% of Estonian students.

EYL's main goal is to represent students' interests on national level. The main issues are student rights, educational and social issues:

- higher education financing models,
- university management models,
- quality in higher education,
- simultaneous working and studying,
- study loans,
- financial support to studies.

EYL works closely together with Riigikogu (the parliament), the government, different ministries, higher education institutions and other partners. EYL is also a leading NGO in Estonia and sometimes also represents students in schools, youth in general or just NGOs in different committees. EYL is recognised partner by the Ministry of Education and Research.

Management board 2009-2011:

Eimar Veldre, chairperson, [eimar.veldre@eyl.ee](mailto:eimar.veldre@eyl.ee)

Maris Mälzer, vice-chair, [maris.malzer@eyl.ee](mailto:maris.malzer@eyl.ee)

**Eesti Õpilasesinduste Liit (Estonian School Student Council Union)**, [www.escu.ee](http://www.escu.ee), [escu@escu.ee](mailto:escu@escu.ee).

The Estonian School Student Council Union, founded in 1998, is a non-governmental politically independent organisation based on students' active voice. At the present moment it is the only organisation in Estonia, which represents Estonian secondary and vocational school students from all over Estonia on the national and international levels as well. At the present moment the organisation unites 195 school student councils representing more than 100 000 students.

Management board 2010:

Edgar Rootalu, Chairman, [edgar@opilasliit.ee](mailto:edgar@opilasliit.ee)

Susanna Paeväli, Vice-chair, [susanna@opilasliit.ee](mailto:susanna@opilasliit.ee)

Gerrit Lääne, members, [gerrit@opilasliit.ee](mailto:gerrit@opilasliit.ee)

Toomas Laigu, public policy, [toomas@opilasliit.ee](mailto:toomas@opilasliit.ee)

Elis Tootsman, public relations, [elis@opilasliit.ee](mailto:elis@opilasliit.ee)

**UNICEF Eesti Rahvuskomitee (Estonian National Committee for UNICEF)**, [www.unicef.ee](http://www.unicef.ee),  
President Elle Kull, [unicef@unicef.ee](mailto:unicef@unicef.ee), [sinilind@unicef.ee](mailto:sinilind@unicef.ee)

**Eesti Lastefond (Estonian Children's Fund)**, [http://www.elf.ee/?set\\_lang\\_id=2](http://www.elf.ee/?set_lang_id=2), [info@elf.ee](mailto:info@elf.ee)

The board of Estonian Children's Fund:

- Meelis Roosimägi, chairman of the board, father of two sons, chairman of the East Tallinn Central Hospitals' board.
- Linnu-Lydia Mae, mother of daughter, logoped, director of studies in Day Care Center Käo.
- Priit Press, florist and owner of flower-shop
- Raul Heido, prosecutor of the Southern Circuit Prosecutor's Office.
- Kaia Rähn, mother of son and daughter.

**Eesti Lastekaitseliit (Estonian Union for Child Welfare)**, [www.lastekaitseliit.ee](http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee),  
[liit@lastekaitseliit.ee](mailto:liit@lastekaitseliit.ee)

- Katrin Saks, President, [katrin.saks@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:katrin.saks@europarl.europa.eu)
- Alar Tamm, general manager, [alar@lastekaitseliit.ee](mailto:alar@lastekaitseliit.ee)

### **2.3.1 Youth councils**



**Eesti Noorteühenduste Liit (Estonian National Youth Council)**, [www.enl.ee](http://www.enl.ee), is an umbrella organization of 51 youth organisations in Estonia. Its main aims are:

- to represent interest of youth organizations in policy processes,
- to develop cooperation between different youth organizations,
- to support youth participation in society.

Ott Heidmets, chairman of board, [ott@enl.ee](mailto:ott@enl.ee)

Pille-Riin Raudsepp, foreign relations, [pille-riin@enl.ee](mailto:pille-riin@enl.ee)

Aleksandra Kamilova, public relations, [sandra@enl.ee](mailto:sandra@enl.ee)

On county level, there are youth councils in all 15 counties. The main rationale for creating county level youth councils was to create opportunities for young people to participate in policy processes which have direct influence on youth. County level youth council is a connecting link between youth, county government and local government. Real effect of the councils on policy processes is unclear.

In addition to county level youth councils, there are youth councils in 43 municipalities.

### **2.3.2 Youth NGOs**

**Avatud Vabariik (Open Republic)**, [www.or.ee](http://www.or.ee), is a non-political youth organisation which was called into being in 1999 with an aim to increase youth participation in society through increased awareness of social issues as well as through increased participation in deliberations on various socio-political issues. It is the largest youth organisation which has Russian language as the working language. The organization denies its role as a sole forum of non-Estonian youth. It has more than 1200 individual members, 70% of them speak Russian as their mother tongue.

The organisation runs 3 programs:

1. civic education program. All members of Estonian society, independent of their ethnocultural background, should be active citizens. Unfortunately young people with ethnic minority background show least activism.
2. Student self-government.
3. The future of Russian school in Estonia. Estonia is going through school reform which reduces use of Russian as working language in schools to minimum and replaces it with Estonian language.

### **2.4 Other structures**

**Eesti Noorsoo Instituut (Estonian Youth Institute)**, [www.eni.ee](http://www.eni.ee), supports cooperation between research, policy making and practice.

### 3. Legislation

#### **Constitution**

Pursuant to the Constitution (and the other laws) the fundamental rights of the people are guaranteed (chapter II fundamental rights, liberties, duties).

Every child of whose parents (at least) one is an Estonian citizen has the right to Estonian citizenship by birth. No one shall be deprived of Estonian citizenship acquired by birth (art.8).

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. 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.

Everyone shall have the right to an 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.

All people shall exercise their supreme power through citizens who have the right to vote by electing the Parliament and participating in referenda and the right to vote shall belong to every Estonian citizen who has attained the age of 18.

An Estonian citizen by birth who has attained forty years of age may be nominated as a candidate for President of the Republic.

#### **Civil Code Act**

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 without active legal capacity. Transactions in the name of the minor shall be entered into by his or her legal representative.

**The Republic of Estonia Education Act and Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act** provide the framework legislation in the area of education and under this the main objectives of education are to create favourable conditions for the development of individuals, families, the Estonian people as well as minorities, for the economic, cultural and political life of Estonia and nature conservation development in the context of global economy and culture. Also, education has to shape persons who respect and abide by the law and to provide conditions for continuous education for all. Compulsory school attendance means that studying is compulsory for children of school age up to the extent specified by the legislation. Children who attain 7 years of age by 1st October of the current year are subject to the obligation to attend school. Students are subject to the obligation to attend school until they acquire basic education or attain 17 years of age.

#### **Youth Work Act**

The act was adopted in 2010. The act provides the legal bases for the organization of youth work. According to the definitions of this Act, a young person is a natural person between 7 and 26 years of age. The Act defines also main institutions and organisations of youth work. Also the Act provides the responsibilities regarding youth work of the Ministry of Education, of rural municipality or city government councils and county governments.

#### **The Family Law Act**

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 a guardian. Even if one of the mentioned persons does not consent to the marriage, a court may grant permission to marry.

Adoption of a minor is permitted if it is in the interests of a child and there is a reason to believe that a parent-child relationship will be created between the adoptive parent and child. A child may be adopted only by a person with legal active capacity of at least 25 years of age. A court may, as an exception, allow a person who has attained at least 18 years of age to adopt.

The Family Law Act foresees who and under what conditions can become legal guardian of a child or a minor. A guardian shall be an adult natural person with active legal capacity. He or she may not have been deprived of the parent's right of custody neither may he or she have violated the obligations of a guardian.

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 10 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 given name or surname and in other issues.

Family Law Act determines that a child of less than 18 years of age and adult child under 21 years of age who continues full-time education are entitled to receive financial support from parents and/or grandparents.

### **The Non-profit Associations Act**

The Non-profit Associations Act determines that children and minors can be members of a non-profit association, but they can not be members of the management board of a non-profit association, as the latter requires active legal capacity.

### **The Employment Contracts Act**

Employment Contracts Act determines that a natural person who has attained eighteen years of age and has active legal capacity or restricted active legal capacity may be an employee. There are exceptions to this:

- 7-12 year old minors may be contracted for carrying out light work in the spheres of culture, arts, sports, advertising;
- 13-14 year old minors may be contracted for carrying out light work only;
- 15-16 year old minors who are school students/pupils may be contracted for carrying out light work only.

The description and list of light work is defined by a regulation of the Government of the Republic.

Contract with minor needs consent from his or her legal representative.

Contract with minors of 7-14 years of age additionally need approval from labour inspector, and in some cases from child protection official.

- 7-12 year old minor may work 3 hours per day and 15 hours per 7 days;
- 13-14 year old minor or employee who studies at school/university may work 4 hours per day and 20 hours per 7 days;
- 15 year old minor may work 6 hours per day and 30 hours per 7 days;
- 16-17 year old minor may work 7 hours per day and 35 hours per 7 days;
- A minor who attends school at full-time basis, may not work longer than half of his or her school vacation.

### **The Penal Code**

The Penal Code determines that a person is capable of guilt if at the time of commission of the act he or she is mentally capable and at least 14 years of age.

### **The Juvenile Sanctions Act**

The Juvenile Sanctions Act prescribed sanctions and corrective measures shall be imposed on a minor if the minor has committed an offence (or a crime) and has not attained the age of criminal responsibility (i.e. is younger than 14 years of age) or he or she can be influenced without application of criminal liability. The juvenile committee has the right to impose the following sanctions: warning; educational correctional measures; referral to a psychologist,

addiction specialist, social worker or some other specialist; conciliation; obligation to live with their parent, foster parent, or in children's home; community service, bail, participation in youth or social programs or rehabilitation projects; sending to class/school with correctional (educational) measures.

### **The Military Service Act**

The Military Service Act determines that the every male citizen of the Republic of Estonia, who has attained eighteen years of age, must register himself as a person eligible to be drafted. Pursuant to the Military Service Act, the citizens of nineteen to twenty seven years of age are invited into active military service. A person who has attained seventeen years of age may join the military service submitting a personal voluntary application.

### **The Traffic Act**

The Traffic Act said that the restricted driving privileges may be granted to a person of 16 to 17 years of age who has the right to drive an automobile on the condition that a parent who has driving license of the corresponding category and at least two years driving experience or a person with such license and experience authorized by the parent is present in the vehicle next to the person with restricted driving privileges.

### **The Weapons Act**

The Weapons Act determined that a citizens who have attained at least sixteen years of age have the right to obtain and own weapons with unrestricted use for civilian purposes (like pepper sprays etc). Estonian citizens who have attained at east eighteen years of age have the right to obtain and own weapons with restricted use for civilian purposes, except pistols and revolvers of the firearms. An Estonian citizen who has attained at least twenty one years of age or has completed the active military service has the right to obtain and own any kind of weapons with restricted use for civilian purposes under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure provided by the law.

### **The Alcohol Act**

The Alcohol Act said that the retail trade of alcohol is prohibited to persons less than eighteen years of age, in addition to which the seller is required to demand identification from the buyer if doubts concerning the age of the buyer arise and to refuse to sell alcohol if the buyer fails to present such identification.

Also the retail trade of tobacco products is prohibited to persons less than eighteen years of age.

### **The Child Welfare Act**

The Child Welfare Act determined that a minor less than sixteen years of age has no right to be in a public places without an accompanying adult from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. During the period form 1st June to 31st August, a minor has no right to be in public places without an accompanying adult form 12 p.m. to 5 a.m. Local governments have the authority to temporarily reduce such period.

### **Regional and local legislation on youth**

There is no separate regional or local legislation on youth as Estonia is an unitary state.

## 4. National Programmes on youth

National Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013 ([www.hm.ee/index.php?popup=download&id=7157](http://www.hm.ee/index.php?popup=download&id=7157))

The YWS 2006-2013 draws together two areas:

- youth policy – a more extensive area – unified approach to all activities targeted at young people in all areas concerning their life.
- youth work – a narrower area – one of the activity areas of youth policy that creates possibilities for young people at the age of 7-26 for versatile development of their personality in addition to curriculum education, jobs and family.

The necessity of youth policy is conditioned by the need to specify the actions that society has to take to provide every young person in Estonia with the possibilities for his or her personal development, support and training experience for his positive self-identification, self-affirmation and self-dignity and through this be able and willing to take responsibility for social welfare and development.

As the courses of young people's development are very diverse and full of influencing factors, youth policy has to be a horizontal policy and reflect different aspects of young people's living. It is essential to highlight the actions targeted at young people, e.g. employment, education, culture policies as well as the activities targeted at the actual needs and challenges of young people, i.e. coordinated and purposeful action in different spheres of life, or integrated youth policy.

The Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013 specifies 32 measures for achieving 4 main goals in 10 areas of youth work, given in the YWS. For each of the 32 measures, a yearly action is plan prepared in accordance with the YWS. However, not all measures will be addressed each year.

### **Action plans i.e. official strategies**

National Integration Program 2008-2013 is the main document that frames integration of different ethno-cultural groups residing in Estonia.

Strategy of Regional Development 2005-2015 looks at regional dimension of socio-economic equality.

Violence Prevention Development Plan 2010-2014 is the main document specifying goals of internal security.

Adult Education Development Plan 2009-2013, Vocational Education Development Plan 2009-2013 and General Education Development Plan 2007-2013 frame provision of education in Estonia.

National Strategy of Higher Education 2006-2015 foresees measures to improve content of higher education. It also includes measures aimed to improve access to higher education for young people with fewer opportunities.

Estonian Strategic Development Plan *Sport for All* 2006-2010 foresees special actions separately for children 5-12 years of age and youth 13-19 years of age.

Basics of Estonian Cultural Policy 2009 mentions that museums should take active role in socialising young generation into Estonian culture. They should also carry out the role of patriotic upbringing.

National Housing Development Plan 2008-2013 foresees measure to support young people and families finding decent housing.

National Entrepreneurship policy 2007-2013 and Estonian Strategy of Research and Innovation 2007-2013 foresee measures to increase entrepreneurship of population, primarily

through entrepreneurship education in gymnasiums, vocational schools, universities and colleges.

National Competitiveness Development Plan 2009-2011 pays attention to increasing the number of graduates of doctoral programs.

National Health Development Plan 2009-2020. Young people is one of the target groups of the strategy; the strategy aims to increase average age and the number of years lived at good health through creating conditions for healthy and secure development of children and young people.

Riiklik HIVi ja AIDSi strateegia aastateks 2006-2015 The strategy recognises young people under 30 as the main target group of anti-HIV/AIDS measures.

National Drug Prevention Strategy 2012 has the goal to protect children and youths from starting misuse of psychoactive substances as well as creating drug-free environment in different localities of Estonia.

Child Protection Concept 2005 was called into being as a contract between children and grown-ups, as a contract between children and government.

National Child and Family Policy specifies conditions necessary for achieving possibly high living standard and security for children and families with children.

National Traffic Safety Program 2003-2015 identifies children and young people as one of target groups. The strategy contains activities for young people which are aimed at increasing safety in traffic.

## **5. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth**

### **National level**

According to 2010 forecast, as of May 13, 2010, state budget allocates 10 988 350 EUR to the youth field plus Estonian Youth Work Centre was allocated additional 2 461 665 EUR to fulfil its tasks so that the total national budget for 2010 was 13 450 015 EUR

### **Local level**

N.A.

## **6. European Dimension of youth policy**

In 2010, the Ministry of Education and Research has signed two international cooperation protocols:

- with Finland,
- with Flemish community of Belgium

The cooperation with Finland is most extensive at the moment.

Starting from 1998 youth work has been supported by the Youth for Europe (up to 1999), Youth (2000-2006) and Youth in Action (starting from 2007) programs. The program is managed by the Youth in Action Estonian Agency, which finances youth exchanges, volunteer service, youth initiatives and training of youth workers

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.

EUOMER is the main coordinator of EU-related work and information in the area of administration of the Ministry. To coordinate and monitor EU-related cooperation the position of a Deputy Secretary General of European Integration has been created.

According to the national coordination scheme, the Ministry of Education and Research needs to form national working-groups at the Ministry in order to successfully participate in the legislative process of the EU. The task of the working-group is to analyse the initiatives of the European Commission and the positions of the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament and assess Estonian national positions regarding education, training, youth and research. They also play a significant role in discussing some other EU issues as well as in exchanges of information about education, training, youth and research.

According to the competence of the Ministry, three permanent working-groups are functioning at the Ministry of Education and Research. Among the three, one of the groups is national working-group of education, training and youth.

### **6.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)**

### **6.2 European Union programmes**

Euroopa Noored (Youth in Action National Agency) [www.noored.ee](http://www.noored.ee), <http://euroopa.noored.ee>  
supports project applications from people aged 13-30 years of age.

EURODESK

[www.eurodesk.ee](http://www.eurodesk.ee)

contact: [eurodesk@eurodesk.ee](mailto:eurodesk@eurodesk.ee), +372 641 9678

Information on opportunities for travelling, lodging and financing in relation to one's studies, working, volunteering, leisure trips in countries of the EU.



## 7. Forthcoming events/conferences

### **7.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines**

In 2011, the 5th national youth work forum is planned. NYWF is a tri-annual event that takes a more general look at the situation in the youth field in Estonia. As current national youth work strategy 2006-2013 is approaching to its end date, the NYWF2011 will start discussions on the new strategy in the youth field.

In 2011, Ministry of Education and Research has plans to amend the Juvenile Sanctions Act. The process will start in 2011.

### **7.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities**

Minister of Education and Research has established the following priorities for 2011:  
Support and prevent from social exclusion youth with fewer opportunities by the way of offering high quality youth work activities.

Emphasize is made on targeted activities at local municipal level. The target groups include:

- Youth aged 7-15 years,
- Elementary school drop-outs,
- Not employed, not studying, not in training young people aged 17-24,
- Unemployed young people.