

Unofficial translation

Issued in Helsinki, 9 February 2006

Government Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy

In accordance with the Government decision made on the submission of the Ministry of Education, the following is enacted by virtue of the Youth Act (72/2006) given on 27 January 2006:

Chapter 1

Government youth work and youth policy

Section 1

Youth Policy Development Programme

The Youth Policy Development Programme referred to in Section 4 of the Youth Act shall be prepared by the Ministry of Education together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Environment and, if necessary, other ministries concerned with youth affairs. The Development Programme shall contain the national objectives for youth policy and provide guidelines for youth policy programme work at the provincial and local levels. The guidelines shall concern young people's education, employment, livelihood, health, active citizenship and social empowerment, housing, entrepreneurship, compulsory military service and non-military service, and other topical issues concerning children and young people. The programme shall take into account aspects related to children particularly from the perspective of promoting their growth and independence.

If necessary, the Ministry of Education shall appoint a working group for the preparation and monitoring of the programme.

Section 2

Advisory Council for Youth Affairs

The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs shall have a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a maximum of 15 other members. The Government shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council from among people who have expertise in young people's growth and living conditions. The members of the Advisory Council must be people nominated by national youth organisations and organisations involved in youth work.

The term of office of the Advisory Council is four years. The Advisory Council shall be appointed in correspondence with the electoral period of the Parliament within six months of the beginning of the parliamentary term and its term shall continue until the appointment of the next Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council has a quorum when the Chairperson and at least a half of the other members are present.

The Advisory Council shall have a General Secretary appointed by the Ministry of Education for a maximum term of four years. Furthermore, the Advisory Council can have other staff. The clerical work of the Advisory Council shall be carried out by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education shall decide on the remuneration paid to the Chairperson, other members and the secretary of the Advisory Council, as well as to outside experts, for attending the meetings.

Section 3

Evaluation and Subsidy Committee

The Evaluation and Subsidy Committee shall have a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a maximum of seven other members. The Government shall appoint the members of the Evaluation and Subsidy Committee from among people who have expertise in youth work after hearing national youth organisations.

The term of office of the Committee is four years. The Committee shall be appointed in correspondence with the electoral period of the Parliament within six months of the beginning of the parliamentary term and its term shall continue until the appointment of the next Committee.

The Committee has a quorum when the Chairperson and at least a half of the other members are present.

The Committee shall have a General Secretary appointed by the Ministry of Education for a maximum term of four years. Furthermore, the Committee can have other staff. The clerical work of the Committee shall be carried out by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education shall decide on the remuneration paid to the Chairperson, other members and the secretary of the committee, as well as to outside experts, for attending the meetings.

Chapter 2

Government funding

Section 4

State subsidies for youth organisations and youth work service organisations

The Ministry of Education shall approve an organisation, on application, to be a national youth organisation or a national youth work service organisation entitled to a subsidy. The application to the Ministry of Education must include a description of the organisation, and its membership, activities and finances.

An organisation can obtain the status of a national youth organisation if it has a minimum of 1,000 individual members, two-thirds of whom are under 29 years of age, or if the total number of members in its district or local organisations is at least 1,000 and two-thirds of the total membership are under 29 years of age. The approval process must take into account the type of youth work the organisation carries out, its sphere of activity and the number of members and the degree of youth participation in its decision-making.

The Ministry of Education maintains a register of the organisations entitled to a subsidy.

The grounds for approval referred to in Subsection 2 can be departed from if an organisation can be deemed to be nationally representative of a language or other minority or a specific branch.

Section 5

Allocation of subsidies

National youth organisations or national youth work service organisations referred to in Section 10, Subsection 1 of the Youth Act shall be allocated general subsidies on the basis of performance as evidenced by the organisation's annual action plan and budget.

Section 6

Performance criteria

Performance is evaluated on the basis of planned and realised activities.

The quality of activities is evaluated in relation to the objectives set by each organisation and the realisation thereof. The evaluation of the extent of activities takes into account the number of young people regularly reached by the activities and the impact and regional coverage of the activities. The evaluation of cost-effectiveness considers revenue from the organisation's own activities, the share of administrative costs of total expenditure and the productivity of the activities. The consideration of the need for subsidy takes into account the financial status of the organisation, other public subsidies and the resources available for primary activities.

The evaluation of the current social relevance takes into account the organisation's activity in societal matters and social empowerment of young people.

Appropriation for general subsidies to district organisations of a national youth organisation and organisations involved in youth work referred to in Section 11 of the Youth Act complies with the provisions in Subsections 1 to 3 as appropriate.

Section 7

Guidelines on acceptable expenditure

The Ministry of Education shall issue national youth organisations and organisations involved in youth work with a guideline on acceptable expenditure for state subsidy annually in connection with declaring the subsidies open for application.

Section 8

Approval of national youth centres for state subsidy

National youth centres shall refer to centres owned by municipalities, joint municipal authorities, youth organisations and organisations involved in youth work, national youth work service organisation and other organisations approved by the Ministry of Education as entitled to a state subsidy.

It is a prerequisite for the entitlement that

- 1) the centre has premises and equipment suitable for regional, national and international activities;
- 2) the administration and the finances of the centre are organised in such a way as to fulfil the prerequisites referred to in Section 12, Subsection 2 of the Youth Act;
- 3) the centre primarily serves regional, national and international youth work, camp and nature school activities, and activities promoting active citizenship and social empowerment of young people;
- 4) when necessary, the centre shall serve as a development centre of youth work and a regional service centre for municipal youth work, and provide further and continuing education in youth work;
- 5) the centre has a safety plan.

Section 9

Operating assistance to national youth centres

Operating assistance to youth centres is granted for purposes referred to in Section 8 Subsection 1. Youth work must account for the majority of the centre's activities, with the target at two-thirds of the activities of the centre. The operating assistance must not be used to cover costs incurred by other activities.

The extent of youth work is evaluated in accordance with use and expenditure referred to in Section 8, Subsection 2, items 1 to 4. Furthermore, the versatility, quality and goal-orientedness of the centre's planned activities, areas of special expertise and the centre's occupancy rate and the share of youth work of all of its activities are also considered.

Construction subsidies can also be granted for costs incurred by the acquisition, construction, renovation and equipment of centres.

Chapter 3

Coming into force and transitional provisions

Section 10

Coming into force

This Decree shall come into force on 1 March 2006. However, Sections 4 and 5 of this Decree shall come into force on 1 January 2007.

This Decree repeals the Government Decree on Youth Work of 22 August 2002 (729/2002)

Measures needed to implement this Decree may be taken before the coming into force of this Decree.

Section 11

Adoption of the Youth Policy Development Programme for the first time

The Government shall adopt the first Youth Policy Development Programme in 2007.

Helsinki, 9 February 2006

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