

Factsheet: Estonia

Last update: 23 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Estonian [Youth Work Act \(2010\)](#) defines youth as between 7 and 26 years of age. This is the same range of age used in the [2006-2013 Youth Work Strategy](#).

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **21**
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **--**
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Unicameral.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Opposite Sex		Same Sex
	WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT	WITH PARENTAL CONSENT	
Male	18	15	--
Female	18	15	--

No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [FOSIGRID](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

14

Minimum Age
Source: [Penal Code of Estonia \(2001\)](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 18783.06
Year: 2013
Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.846
Year: 2013
Source: [UNDP](#)
33 out of 187 countries.

GINI

32.69
Year: 2011
Source: [World Bank](#)

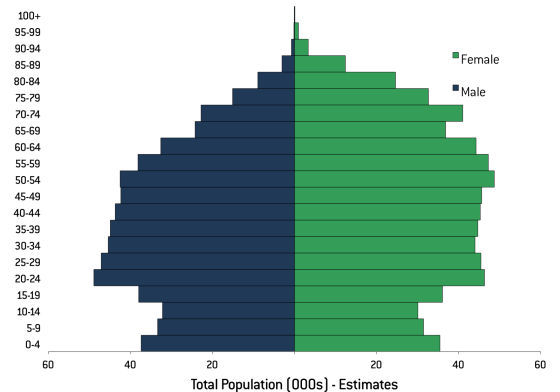
CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

69
26 out of 177 countries.
Year: 2014
Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

9.63
11 out of 180 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



Source: [United Nations Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects The 2012 Revision \(Estimates\)](#); <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm> [accessed July 2013]

Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.7

52 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.97%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.96% **99.97%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

90.65%

Both sexes %

90.38% **90.94%**

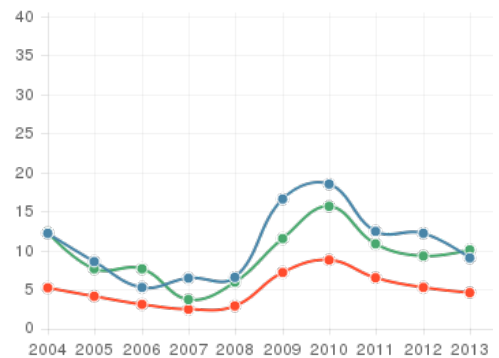
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.8%

Male (15-24) %

0.5%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

30.80%

Both sexes (13-15) %

33.80%

Male (13-15) %

27.80%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

According to the [Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013](#), youth policy is all "coordinated and purposeful activities concerning the life of a young person". As such, the [youth work strategy](#) integrates the general area of youth policy with the narrow area of youth work, setting goals, measures and indicators of efficiency. Indicators include the number of youth participation in councils, the accessibility of hobby education, the range and accessibility of youth information and the size of the youth research network. The [Youth Work Act \(2010\)](#) provides the legal basis for youth work, defined as "the creation of conditions to promote the diverse development of young persons". It sets out which institutions are responsible for youth work, its financing and the liability of those who work with youth.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

The youth policy of Estonia is based on the [2010 youth work act](#) and the [2006 youth work strategy](#).

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

male - (15-24) female - (15-24) total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

As argued in *Youth and Public Policy in Estonia (2012)*, the creation of one central coordinating unit (ex. a Ministry of Youth) was not the goal of the *youth work strategy*, but rather an integrated youth policy based on information exchange between various actors. This exchange is coordinated by the *Youth Affairs office* in cooperation with the *Estonian Youth Work Centre (EYWC)*. Both offices are set within the *Ministry of Education and Research*, identified in the *strategy* as the ministry responsible for its implementation.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The *Estonian National Youth Council (ENL)* is the representative body for youth, and an umbrella organisation for non-profit groups that deal with young people or perform youth work. As described in the *youth work strategy*, ENL delegates representatives from youth associations to the Council of Youth Policies - a governmental-civil society council that advises the *Ministry of Education and Research*, which is responsible for the implementation of the *strategy*. ENL advocates for youth interests in legislation and better financing for youth organisations.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the *Country Sheet on Youth Policy in Estonia (2010)*, the budget allocated to the youth field (including the *Estonian National Youth Council (ENL)*) was EUR 13.5 million (USD 18.5 million). While the 2013 budget for the *Ministry of Education and Research* is available in the *State Budget for 2013*, it is not disaggregated by office or theme. Therefore, updated information on the budget for the youth field is unknown. According to the *World Bank*, Estonia spent 14.0% of its government expenditure and 5.7% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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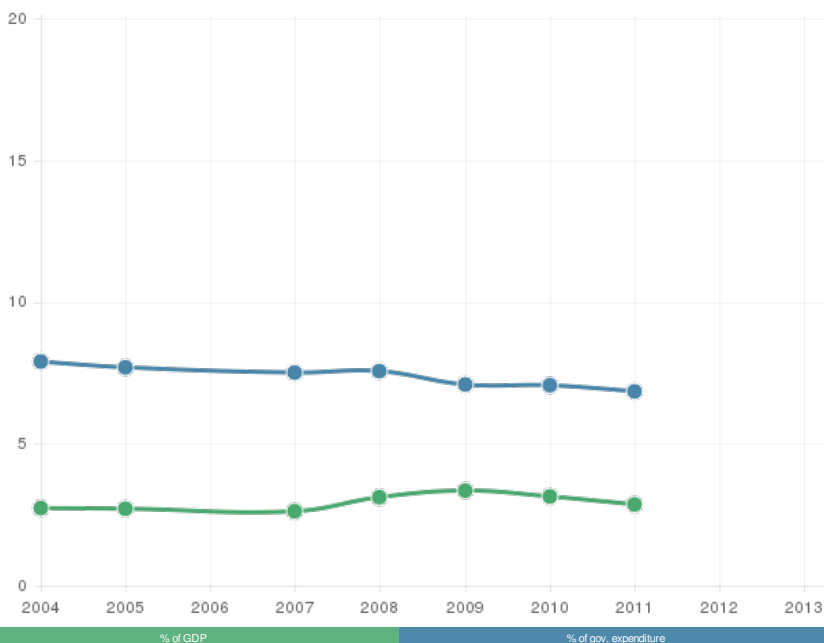
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP



Source: World Bank

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: World Bank

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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