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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT</th>
<th>WITH PARENTAL CONSENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower House</td>
<td>Male: 18</td>
<td>Female: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Parental Consent</th>
<th>With Parental Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: UNDD, ILGA

VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: FOSSGRID

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

14


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% Male (15-24) %

99.97% Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

90.65%

Both sexes %

90.36% Male %

90.94% Female %

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.8%

Male (15-24) %

0.5%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

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 2006-2013 Youth Work Strategy.

Source: World Bank

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 18783.06

Year: 2014

Source: World Bank

HDI

0.846

Year: 2014

Source: UNDP

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

VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: FOSSGRID

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

14


YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.
As argued in *Youth and Public Policy in Estonia* (2012), the creation of one central coordinating unit (e.g., 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.

**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.

**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 €13.5 million (US$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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**EUROPEAN YOUTH IN SLOVAKIA**

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

**YES**

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

**YES**

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

**EUROPEAN YOUTH IN SLOVAKIA**

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

Source: World Bank

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:

Documents about Estonia