



Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium

The Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia

ESTONIAN YOUTH WORK STRATEGY 2006-2013

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INTRODUCTION

The youth work strategy for 2006-2013 draws together the strategic aims of two areas of the recent years:

- › **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.

For the time being, merely the trends of youth work had been defined in Estonia in the Estonian Youth Work Concept (2001) and in the Development Plan of Estonian Youth Work (2001-2004).

The choice of formulating one document concerning youth work instead of the respective two and integrating it into one unitary document proceeds from two reasons:

- › the fundamentals and principles of both youth policy and youth work are based on the same values and will be more comprehensible if bound together; also, commonly both spheres belong to the same administrative structures on the national as well as local levels;
- › the combination of areas based on unitary principles into one broad-spectrum document enables divisibility of narrow strategic development plans of one area and mutual unity of aims to be avoided.

The content, principles and aims of youth policy have not been unambiguously specified as yet. Because of the changes in the position of young people in Estonia, it is important to take the first step towards youth policy that would define horizontal bases to be followed in every aspect concerning young people's lives. In setting the priorities of youth policy, the basic principle followed was that exact and detailed development needs and measures were to be specified (or could be specified) within a certain area, i.e. developments regarding education in development plans of general education, vocational education, higher education, etc., the needs and trends in employment in development plans of employment, etc.



The present strategy gives a list of the main areas of young people's lives and their short descriptions, and the aims have been set with the view that they are to be taken into account in any area in implementing the existing development plans and strategies or in developing them.

The strategy is a basis for achieving the goals of youth policy and its financing plan, for ensuring the unity, cost effectiveness, purposefulness and effectiveness of youth policy and youth work development plans of the state, local governments and non-profit sector.

The youth work strategy for 2006-2013 consists of 4 main parts and appendices:

1. Statistical figures and actual state of youth work;
2. Fundamentals of youth policy (including the concept of integrated youth policy), its principles, activity areas, general and specific goals;
3. Fundamentals of youth work (including its principles and organisation), its areas, development trends, general and specific goals and measures;
4. Implementation of the strategy: indicators of efficiency, implementation plan for 2006-2007.

Appendices: the definition of the terms used in the strategy, the state of general education and youth in local municipalities, the analysis of the actual state of youth work areas and the objectives and measures of youth policy activity areas.

The following documents have been primarily taken into account in working out the Youth Work Strategy for 2006-2013:

- › The white paper of the youth policy of the EU and other development issues specified in the framework of the EU youth policy cooperation;
- › The Council of Europe's framework document for youth policy and documents of youth policy indicators;
- › The European Council's expert report of youth policy in Estonia
- › Action plans passed at the 2nd Forum of Estonian Youth Work (2003) and assessments of their results in 2004 by the area round-tables acting by the Estonian Youth Work Centre;
- › Final document of the 3rd Forum of Estonian Youth Work (2005).

The strategy is in accordance with the Estonian Action Plan for Growth and Jobs 2005-2007 (passed 13 October, 2005).

¹ European Commission (2001) A New Impetus for European Youth. White Paper. http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/whitepaper/index_en.html.

² European Union Council. Resolution on common objectives for participation by and information for young people (2003); <http://documents.youth-knowledge.net/documents/168.pdf>;
Resolution on common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth (2004); <http://documents.youth-knowledge.net/documents/170.pdf>;
Resolution on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people (2004); <http://documents.youth-knowledge.net/documents/169.pdf>.

³ Council of Europe "A European Framework for Youth Policy," L. Siurala; 2005; <http://documents.youth-knowledge.net/documents/468.pdf>.

⁴ Experts on Youth Policy Indicators: Third and concluding meeting, (2003); European Youth Centre, Strasbourg; http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Youth/youthpolicyindicators.doc

⁵ Youth Policy in Estonia: international report. Council of Europe. 2000; <http://documents.youth-knowledge.net/documents/79.pdf>.



1. ACTUAL STATE OF YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK IN ESTONIA

1.1. The number of young people in Estonia

According to the Youth Work Act young people fall into the age group 7-26 in Estonia

The total of young people by counties

	2005			Forecast for 2006			Forecast for 2010		
	Whole population	Young	Percentage of young	Young	Change	Change (%)	Young	Change	Change (%)
Total in Estonia	1 347 510	366 914	27.2	358 823	-8 091	-2.2	326 664	-40 250	-11.0
Harju County	521 038	135 154	25.9	130 540	-4 614	-3.4	116 509	-18 645	-13.8
Tallinn	396 010	99 754	25.2	95 718	-4 036	-4.0	83 884	-15 870	-15.9
Hiiu County	10 246	3 084	30.1	3 076	-8	-0.3	2 988	-96	-3.1
Ida-Viru County	173 777	44 306	25.5	43 622	-684	-1.5	40 476	-3 830	-8.6
Jõgeva County	37 473	10 983	29.3	10 953	-30	-0.3	10 452	-531	-4.8
Järva County	38 141	11 479	30.1	11 402	-77	-0.7	10 535	-944	-8.2
Lääne County	27 990	7 874	28.1	7 888	14	0.2	7 501	-373	-4.7
Lääne-Viru County	66 464	19 013	28.6	18 931	-82	-0.4	18 186	-827	-4.3
Põlva County	31 752	8 916	28.1	8 907	-9	-0.1	8 601	-315	-3.5
Pärnu County	89 343	24 847	27.8	24 662	-185	-0.7	23 299	-1 548	-6.2
Rapla County	37 032	11 095	30.0	11 005	-90	-0.8	10 326	-769	-6.9
Saare County	35 208	10 065	28.6	10 028	-37	-0.4	9 535	-530	-5.3
Tartu County	148 886	43 204	29.0	41 761	-1 443	-3.3	36 469	-6 735	-15.6
Valga County	34 867	9 567	27.4	9 605	38	0.4	9 402	-165	-1.7
Viljandi County	56 616	16 494	29.1	16 379	-115	-0.7	15 306	-1 188	-7.2
Võru County	38 677	10 833	28.0	10 819	-14	-0.1	10 386	-447	-4.1

The data of 2005 as of 1 January

The forecasts for 2006 and 2010 have been made on the basis of population events in the years 2002-2005 (earlier data at the county level is not available).

Changes in 2006 and 2010 have been calculated in comparison with the level in 2005. NB! On the assumption that the tendencies in migration and growth in population will not change in the following years.

Source: Statistics Estonia and Department of analysis, the Ministry of Education and Research.

1.2. Description of the actual state in 2005

1.2.1. Regulations of youth work

Important documents: the Youth Work Act (1999), Estonian Youth Work Concept (2001), Development Plan of Estonian Youth Work for 2001-2004 (2001), the European Commission White Paper: A New Impetus for European Youth (2001).

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, and according to the Youth Work Concept, a local government may delegate the responsibilities of youth work to the non-profit sector.

The issues in the sphere of young people are treated by the cultural committee as the leading committee in the Riigikogu (the Parliament of Estonia). The ministry responsible for the sphere of young people is the Ministry of Education and Research, which plans youth policies and organises youth work for facilitating young people's participation and integration in society, coordinates the activities of local municipalities in the sphere and supervises the activities of its administrative function, the Estonian Youth Work Centre.

The primary partnership entity at the national level is the Council of Youth Policies, which advises the Minister of Education and Research. The Council consists of 6 representatives of youth associations delegated by the Estonian National Youth Council (ENL), 1 representative of county governments and 1 representative of local municipalities delegated by the Estonian Association of Youth Workers and

3 representatives of national youth institutions (The Ministry of Education and Research, the Estonian Youth Work Centre, Youth for Europe Estonian Agency).

Youth work has eight areas of activities: special youth work (work with risk groups); hobby education (extracurricular activities at spare time, incl. youth work in schools); information on youth and for youth, counselling and studies; training, further training and re-training in the field of youth work; recreational holidays and leisure activities (activities of youth camps); work education for the youth (work brigades); and international youth work. The parts of youth work that are indispensable for successful application of the abovementioned, i.e. structures of youth work and youth participation, were also included in the development plan of youth work.

Special youth work

The main coordinators of the issues of juvenile crime prevention are committees of juvenile issues formed in counties (15), local municipalities and town governments (42) under the Juvenile Sanctions Act. The discussion of the cases of juvenile delinquency in order to find the suitable leverage from a warning to sending minors to schools for children needing special provisions is under their jurisdiction. Local governments also deal with crime prevention through several committees of legal protection, social issues, children and welfare issues, education, culture, sports, etc. Drug prevention councils and crime prevention committees have been formed in many counties.

Hobby education

Hobby education is any activity involving young people for facilitating versatile development of their personality on the basis of a national or institutional curriculum. There are 300 licensed hobby schools in Estonia (160 municipal and 140 private hobby schools) and approximately 48,000 pupils study in them, about 13,300 of them in music and art schools; 13,400 in sports schools and 21,300 in other schools.

Hobby activities are organised in schools, open youth centres, hobby centres, youth associations and non-profit associations. The activities are regulated by the Hobby Schools Act.

As a rule, hobby education is to a great extent financed from the budgets of local municipalities. This makes it one of the most stable and sustainable areas of youth work that has very long traditions.

Information on youth and for youth, counselling and studies

Essential institutions in the field of youth information and counselling are county (18) and local information and counselling centres. The biggest annual event in youth information is the Teeviit information fair as well as regional and local information fairs. The Aken information newsletter is published by the Estonian National Youth Council. Attractive sources of information for young people are also various Internet databases and online communication environments, e.g. Rajaleidja, Eurodesk, etc. One of the counselling categories – career counselling – is coordinated and developed by the National Resource Centre for Guidance of the Foundation for Lifelong Learning Development Innove.

The Estonian Youth Institute was established in 2001. The institute collects information in the area of youth work from different studies, carries out thorough analysis on the basis of this information and makes recommendations regarding youth work based on these analyses to politicians and officials.

Training, further training and re-training in youth work

Applied higher education in the field of youth work can be acquired in the Tallinn Pedagogical Seminar, in the field of school youth work instruction at the Viljandi Culture Academy, University of Tartu and since academic year 2004/2005 in the field of youth work at the Narva College, University of Tartu. In 2004 the number of student places financed from the state budget was 84.

In 2002 a working group at the Ministry of Education and Research compiled the profession description of youth work and outlined the knowledge and skills required for the profession with the aim of creating a systematic basis for the development of the training activities in the field.

Recreational holidays and leisure activities

There are 28 licensed youth camps and many project camps in Estonia. About 30,000 young people get financial assistance from national program to participate in the camps. The information of youth camps that is collected and updated by the Estonian Youth Work Centre is available at: www.noartelaagrid.edu.ee.

About 23,000 young people from ~365 schools participate in school sports activities through the Estonian School Sport Union.

Work education of youth

The aim of work education is to improve the position of young people in the labour market with the help of youth work methods by increasing their preparedness for employment. It is necessary to apply as versatile work education methods as possible depending on the target group and local situation. The most common measure used are youth brigades, i.e. youth summer projects of taking a vacation and doing some work at the same time. About 7,000 young people (mostly minors) take part in the pupils' working brigades in different regions in Estonia. There are companies run by pupils in several general education schools that facilitate young people's entrepreneurial way of thinking.

International youth work

As of 2005, the Ministry of Education and Research has signed four international cooperation protocols with Finland, Germany, Belgium, Latvia and Lithuania. The cooperation with Finland is most extensive at the moment.

Since 1998 youth work, which is becoming more international, has been supported by the Youth for Europe (up to 1999) and Youth (2000–2006) programs. The program is managed by the Youth for Europe Estonian Agency, which finances youth exchanges, volunteer service, youth initiatives and training of youth workers.

Structures of youth work and youth participation

Since 2003, eight round tables of youth work areas that unite experts of different fields have been held in the Estonian Youth Work Centre, ensuring the coherence of development activities with regional development and area networks.

According to the register of youth associations there are 15 national youth associations in Estonia. Local and regional unions are registered in the register of non-profit institutions.

The National Youth Council comprises 45 associations of youth and youth work. The student councils in schools belong to the umbrella organisation the Estonian School Student Councils' Union. Student councils belong to and are represented by the Federation of Estonian Student Unions. There are 141 open youth centres in Estonia; a part of them belong to the Estonian Union of Youth Clubs.

According to the National Youth Council, youth councils have been established in 9 local governments.



1.2.2. Financing

Youth work is primarily financed by five sources:

- › parents and young people themselves;
- › budgets of local governments;
- › state budget, part of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Education and Research;
- › funds and different programs;
- › private sector.

An important part of the budget is formed by the assignments from the gambling tax; the final decision concerning the support is made by the Council of Gambling Tax in the Riigikogu.





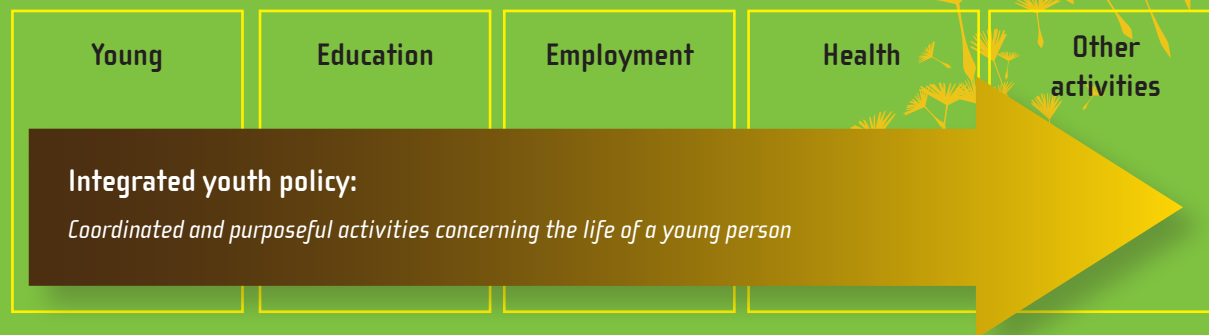
2. YOUTH POLICY

Young people in Estonia have to face more diverse choices than ever – their course of life and development from childhood to adulthood are influenced by a range of different factors, hindrances and opportunities in their course to adulthood have become more individual.

Society expects from people who have reached adulthood awareness as citizens, active contribution to retaining mutual welfare and constructive initiatives and willingness. In the case of aging population the expectations towards young people will increase, i.e. younger people are expected to take responsibility and be socially active.

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 personal development, support and training experience for his positive self-identification, self-education, 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.



Integrated youth policy

As the result of integrated youth policy, a young person will get the so-called package of experience that contains everything necessary for managing successfully with the challenges, choices and opportunities ahead of him, incl.:

- › participation opportunities and experience
- › studying
- › creativity and possibility of self-expression
- › information and guidance
- › experience in social membership
- › safety and welfare
- › prevention of problems and support in dealing with them

Integrated youth policy is grounded on the following principles:

- › starting point is the young person, his actual state, interests, needs;
- › youth participation;
- › cooperation between different areas.

In accordance with these principles it is essential to view young people as a diverse and heterogeneous group while planning respective measures and activities. In a broader context, the following distribution of young people according to their age is possible: age groups 7-11, 12-17, 18-26. These groups have similar needs. However, there are several subgroups within each group that might be based on cultural, national, gender, health specialties. This means that the integrated youth policy principle of “starting point is the young person, his actual state” has a special meaning and points out the need for the consistent study and analyses of the young people’s lifestyle.

2.1 Activity areas of youth policy

The main activity areas of youth policy where decisions concerning youth and young people’s life are to be made are youth work, education, employment, health, culture, social policy, environment, national defence, family policy, etc. In the context of this strategy, it is important to present the generalised descriptions of the activity areas proceeding from their direct influence on youth:

Youth work as the area that shapes the principles and value attitudes of youth policy, is the creation of conditions that facilitate the development of youth, enable them to be active of their own free will outside their families, curriculum education and job.

The aim of **education policy** is to give basic knowledge in formal education, vocational and social skills and to prepare youth for ensuring the sustainability of society and for managing in it.

The aim of **employment policy** as regards youth is to increase the employment rate by improving social and professional skills. Labour market determines to a great extent the educational needs of youth; the most important stage in young people’s emancipation is to ensure a stable position in the labour market.

Health policy proceeds from the betterment of the young people's health and prevention of such conduct that would harm themselves or other people. Health policy is based on the fundamentals of population policy, source document on mental health and national strategies of HIV/AIDS and drug use prevention.

One of the most essential aims of **culture policy** regarding youth is the shaping of youth culture carriers. Youth policy operates in general cultural environment. Learning from other cultures has become a new challenge and a new opportunity in non-formal education of youth.

The mission of **social policy** is to provide equal opportunities for decent life. The aim regarding youth is the improvement of the youth's and children's development environment and protection of their rights. The encouragement of youth emancipation has become an important issue.

The aim of **family policy** regarding youth is to provide the best possible quality of life and safe environment, also in situations where a young person becomes a parent. The task of family policy is the improvement of the life quality of children and families with children, supporting the successful combination of family and professional life and the valuation of raising children. Family policy is regulated by the Concept of Children and Family Policy, the Family Act and the Child Protection Act.

Crime prevention policy's measures aimed at youth strive for the safety of the living environment of youth, i.e. the protection of the safety of youth by decreasing or eliminating environmental or situational danger factors and prevention of crimes committed by young people.

The implementation of the crime prevention policy is based on the Guidelines for Development of Criminal Policy until 2010.

The area of **environment** comprises activities that are aimed at increasing the environmental awareness of youth and at acquiring the principles of a saving and sustainable development. Non-formal education forms an important part of environmental education.

The area of **national defence** comprises activities that are aimed at the facilitation of patriotic education of youth and ensuring of national security.

The strategic goals in these areas have been specified in the valid or the formulated area strategies.

2.2 Trends of Estonian youth policy for 2006–2013

The general goal of youth policy is to ensure youth participation in decision-making process and to take into account their interests and needs in all activity areas of youth policy.

1. The activities targeted at youth proceed from the state of youth and their actual needs.

The development requires:

- 1.1. consistent and systematic assessment and analysing possibilities that enable comparison;
- 1.2. increase in the quality and capacity of youth studies;
- 1.3. taking into consideration the study results in formulating policies.

2. Young people participate in decision-making processes and policy formulation that concern them.

The development requires:

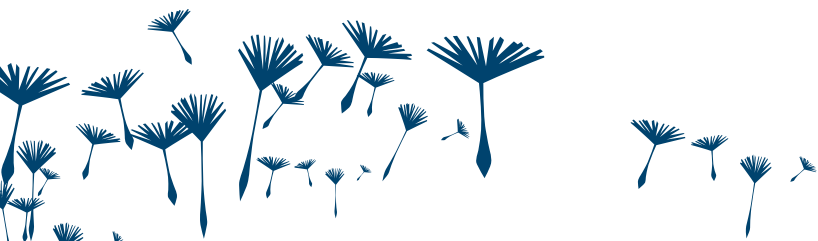
- 2.1. ensuring that youth are consulted at local, county and national level;
- 2.2. drawing attention and planning activities to increase the motivation of youth to participate.

3. Formulation, planning and implementation of integrated youth policy are executed in cooperation with different partners.

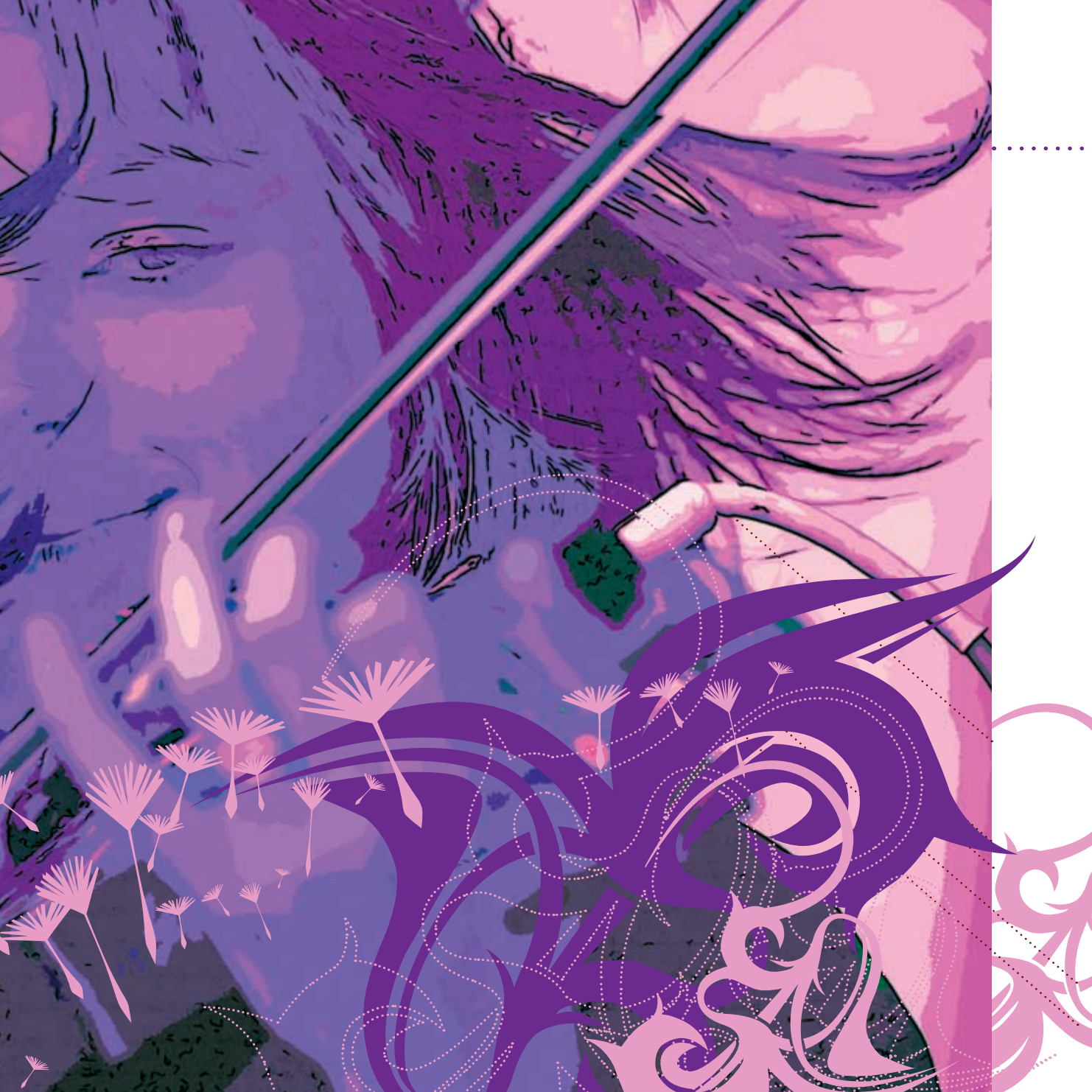
The development requires:

- 3.1. creation of a cooperation network at local level;
- 3.2. improvement of the cooperation of the concerned ministries.

The implementation of development trends is performed at all administrative levels and in different areas through the existing development plans and updating of strategies as well as through formulating and implementing new ones.







3. YOUTH WORK



3.1 Fundamentals of youth work

- › Youth work is the creation of circumstances for developmental activities of youth that enable them to act outside their family, curriculum education and job of their own free will.
- › The subject of youth work is a 7-26-year old member of society.
- › The aim of youth work is to create prerequisites and support youth in managing as members of society.
- › Youth work starts in the site where young people, their views, opinions and interest are.
- › Youth work creates the circumstances for the youth's personal (personality) and social development through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills in non-formal and informal educational environments.
- › Youth work helps shape youth's ethic beliefs, public spirit and respect of other cultures.
- › Youth work assists youth to learn about themselves, others, surroundings through planned and spontaneous activities.
- › Youth work strives for youth participation in social order, encourages young people to take responsibility and make knowledgeable decisions about their life, values and the development of society.

3.1.1. Principles of youth work:

- › Youth work is to be performed for youth and with youth by involving them in making decisions about youth work.
- › Youth work proceeds from the needs, interests and wishes of youth.
- › Youth work is grounded on the participation and free will of youth.
- › Youth work is grounded on the initiative of youth.
- › Youth work is entwined with national and international integration.
- › Youth work proceeds from ethical principles and the principle of equal treatment.
- › Youth worker proceeds from the principle of tolerance and partnership in his work with youth.

3.1.2. Principles of the organisation of youth work:

- › Youth work is provided as near as possible to young people's place of living.
- › The main organisers of youth work are local governments, youth associations and youth work institutions.
- › The execution and environment of youth work is safe, of good quality, diverse, innovative and directed towards creating new (surplus) value.
- › The surroundings of youth work are accepted by youth and facilitate non-formal and informal learning.

- › The youth work organiser and youth worker are honest and open-minded towards the aims and methods of youth work.
- › In case of the good will and readiness of non-profit sector, the public sector enters into agreements for the fulfilment of respective functions of youth work and finances their administration according to the financing principles set by local governments and/or the state.
- › The structure of youth work enables youth to participate in decision-making, primarily in formulation of national and local municipality development plans and in planning and distribution of the financial means of youth work.
- › Youth work is to be planned, coordinated and performed at different administrative levels in cooperation with different sectors.
- › Youth work needs purposeful planning, consistent analysis and assessment.
- › Youth participation and the quality of non-formal learning are indicators of the assessment of youth work.

3.1.3. Organisation of youth work:

Youth work is organised in different institutions and forms by using diverse methods.

The role and working methods of **youth worker** depend on the location, state, target group and aims of youth work. These roles include work with the youth and youth groups, planning of programs and projects, maintenance of buildings and machinery, cooperation with the specialists in other fields, parents and stakeholders. Specialists in different hobbies who have also acquired professional skills in youth work are active in hobby schools. Youth workers – school youth work instructors – who work in general education schools, focus on the organisation of youth work or its actual execution depending on the needs and circumstances of the school's development plan.

Youth associations are youth organisations and non-formal youth groups. Youth associations act on the principle that the goals and activity of the association have been codetermined by their members. Youth associations are active in one or in several areas of youth work. Most of the youth work carried out in a youth association is performed on the voluntary principle. Youth participation entities (youth parliament/youth council) that do not have legal status but whose membership has been elected or delegated amongst youth play an important role. The aim of the youth council is to participate in the decision-making process and protection of youth rights in the spheres that concern them.

The activities of youth centres are organised by local governments or non-profit institutions. Youth centres can be very different – open youth centres, information and counselling centres,

youth work centres, etc. Youth work in youth centres is organised in several areas of youth work (e.g. information, counselling, hobby education, etc.) or focuses on one definite method, e.g. open youth work. Youth centres are primary performers of youth work.

Hobby schools act in a more formal part of youth work by offering youth hobby education on the basis of a curriculum. There are different categories of hobby education: sports, music, art, dancing, theatre, nature, handicraft, technology, etc. Hobby schools can also organise open youth work, information, counselling.

The youth work in **general education and vocational education** schools supports the fulfilment of the aims set in the school curriculum and is based on extracurricular activities organised by the school's youth work instructor (youth worker in school) and the school's student council. Youth work in school includes hobby education, special youth work, youth participation, information, etc.

Youth camps act as establishments of bodies or bodies governed by public law that have been entered into the commercial register, the Register of Non-profit Institutions and Foundations or the Register of Estonian churches, Congregations and Associations of Congregations and that have been licensed by the Ministry of Education and Research.

Programs and projects are carried out in different locations and by varied structures or persons. Numerous youth exchanges, events, campaigns and actions as well as projects and programs targeted at the basic activities of youth associations, youth camps, youth centres and hobby schools are quite common.

3.2 Areas of youth work

The areas of youth work denote a negotiated definition/distribution of a course of action that simplifies the organisation of youth work and enables the organisation to be comparatively assessed.

Special youth work is the creation of development prerequisites to the youth living in risk circumstances and/or of problematic behaviour by activating their abilities and skills and increasing their motivation;

Youth hobby education and hobby activities are long-term (hobby education) or short-term (hobby activities) systematic and supervised engagements with one's hobbies at one's will outside formal education or job for acquiring intensive knowledge and skills in selected hobby;

Youth information means providing updated, relevant, accessible and quality information and informing of youth;

Youth counselling means providing services of counselling to youth to enable them to make decisions about their life;

Youth work denotes the existence of systematic and comparable studies for planning and executing the youth work areas and grounding of youth activities on these studies;

Youth work training is the existence, availability and quality of the possibilities for the acquisition and development of the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for quality youth work and for its successful performance;

Recreational activities of youth means providing possibilities for youth for recreational and developmental activities through the projects of recreational vacation and spare time activities and organisation of camps;

Work education of youth is the increase in the youth employment readiness and improvement of the position of youth in entering labour market;

International youth work is the creation of opportunities for youth and youth workers for acquiring international cooperation experience and learning from other cultures;

Youth participation is the creation of diverse opportunities for youth for participating in decision-making processes and the development of participation motivation.

3.3 Trends of youth work for 2006–2013

Proceeding from the fundamentals of youth policy, aims and principles of youth work it is important in planning the measures for 2006–2013 to:

- › acknowledge the necessity of the organisation of flexible youth work that proceeds from the interests and needs of youth;
- › pay continuous attention to ensuring youth participation in the planning, performance and assessment of youth work;
- › realise the importance of assessment of youth work in improving the quality of youth work;

For ensuring the consistency and sustainability of youth work it is important to acknowledge:


- › essential achievements in improving the legal environment, structure and implementation models of youth work in Estonia;
- › leading role of volunteers, youth associations, youth centres and other youth work institutions as organisers of youth work;
- › importance of local governments as organisers of youth work;
- › role of the Estonian National Youth Council as the representative body of the youth;
- › importance of the participation of non-organised youth.

The general goal of youth work for 2006–2013 is to assure possibilities for versatile development of the personalities of youth through diversity of youth work, its accessibility and improvement of its quality.

Area goals:

1. to raise the quality of youth work and the qualification of youth workers;
2. to increase youth involvement in youth work and availability of youth work services;
3. to develop the structure of youth work into an integral network;
4. to use the potential of youth work in the development of different spheres of life.

Indicators:



Indicators	Prognosis for 2008	2005 level
Youth (7–26) involvement in youth work	60%	42%
Youth participation in youth associations	5%	3%
The number of youth work institutions increases (incl. open youth centres, information and counselling centres, hobby school), the number increases as regards open youth centres and information and counselling centres	500	Ca 420
Youth councils in every county and major town	20	5

3.4 Measures of youth work

For achieving the goals of youth work areas, activities by areas are to be planned at local, county and national levels in the framework of recurrent measures (measures 1-6) and area measures (7-32).

3.4.1 Measures recurrent in areas

- Measure 1: development and implementation of the quality assessment system of youth work
- Measure 2: increasing the involvement and participation of youth in planning, performing and assessing youth work
- Measure 3: creation of favourable conditions for the professional development of youth workers and valuation of the profession of youth worker
- Measure 4: ensuring the sustainability and development of the structure of youth work, including efficient implementation of the EU structural funds
- Measure 5: development of cooperation between areas of youth work at all levels and expression of the issues formulated in youth work strategy in development plans of all levels
- Measure 6: increase in civic awareness and education and valuation of multiculturalism

3.4.2 Area measures

Special youth work

- Measure 7: development and implementation of projects and programs targeted at prevention of youth violations of law, including repetitive violations
- Measure 8: prevention of usage of addictive substances and other substances that foster risk conduct
- Measure 9: increasing awareness of the causes of problematic behaviour, planning and implementation of intervention mechanism

Youth hobby education and hobby activities

- Measure 10: supporting availability of hobby education and hobby activities targeted at youth with fewer opportunities
- Measure 11: development of hobby schools and institutions that provide hobby activities
- Measure 12: diversification of the methods and means used in hobby activities and hobby education, including implementation of new methods

Youth information

- Measure 13: development of cooperation between youth information channels for ensuring accessibility of information close to youth's place of living and in youthful format
- Measure 14: involvement of youth in formulating and inter-mediating youth information
- Measure 15: improvement of the quality of youth information

Youth counselling

Measure 16: concentration of different counselling services into integral network in cooperation with the organisers of counselling and the state instructors, i.e. implementation of integrated counselling model for increasing the availability of counselling services

Youth research

Measure 17: getting an overview of the studies of youth work areas at all levels and improvement of the accessibility of the performed studies

Measure 18: organisation of regular youth studies, monitoring of youth work, analysis of study results, formulation and implementation of development trends based on the results

Youth work training

Measure 19: ensuring and improving the possibilities of youth training

Measure 20: development of the training in youth work

Measure 21: support to the publication of youth work study materials and publications

Measure 22: elaboration of the system of the qualification of youth worker according to the qualification standard

Recreational activities of youth

Measure 23: expansion of the availability of the service of recreational activities of youth in youth camps and project camps

Measure 24: development and provision of camp services in accordance with the needs of the youth

Work education of youth

Measure 25: development and implementation of work education methods and support of work education networks

Measure 26: increasing the accessibility to information regarding labour law

International youth work

Measure 27: facilitate the mobility of youth and youth workers through different international programs

Measure 28: increase openness and tolerance of specialties and diversities among youth and in the sphere in general

Measure 29: develop international cooperation primarily at the local level

Youth participation

Measure 30: create possibilities for non-organised youth to be represented at national, county and local levels

Measure 31: support the formation of youth councils and their sustainability through elaboration of their operation principles and advising local governments

Measure 32: development of participation motivation of youth and participation habits



4. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STRATEGY

4.1. Measurement of efficiency

The general efficiency indicator of youth policy is the young people's quality of life in Estonia and its different aspects. At this point it is possible to present the indicators of the current state of youth groups, measures targeted at the improvement of the current state and the efficiency indicators regarding area goals in different spheres of life (education, employment rate, living conditions, economic well-being, etc.).

There is no comprehensive system for assessing youth policy, its effectiveness and efficiency in Estonia. The first measure of this strategy comprises the elaboration of broad and overall assessment system that enables assessment and includes quality standards, quality indicators and assessment mechanisms. In implementing the strategy, the starting point might be a coordinated regular monitoring of the criteria of the life quality of youth, its indicators and development.

As regards the quality and efficiency of youth work, it is at present possible to present the efficiency indicators of the organisation of youth work and its structure. The process-based character of an area of youth work makes the formulation of indicators extremely complicated. Youth spheres of life, as well as the knowledge, skills and experience acquired, that are to a considerable extent influenced by youth work, also need to be specified as yet. The activity of defining the quality of youth work and identifying its indicators has also been included in the measures of this strategy.

In formulating the efficiency indicators of the strategy, the description of outcomes and if applicable, also structural numeric indicators have been used primarily.

Efficiency indicators for 2006–2007:

Efficiency indicator of the area of youth work structure and quality: youth involvement in youth work will increase; the number of youth participation councils will grow; there is an assessment model of the youth work quality; professional associations of youth workers are operating.

Special youth work: the network of committees of juvenile issues is operating; the number of programs and projects supported by juvenile committees; the number of participants in training projects of preventing risk behaviour; the number of members of the network of the institutions involved in preventive activities, including from-youth-to-youth training events; training events for the causes and prevention of problem behaviour for the members of the network of juvenile committees and other youth work specialists.

Youth hobby education and hobby activities: the accessibility of hobby education will grow; the infrastructure of hobby schools will develop and their teaching aids will be updated; the coordination of the activities of hobby schools will improve.

Youth information: the range and accessibility of youth information will grow.

Youth counselling: counselling services will be provided according to the counselling model, i.e. the organisation of counselling services will be comprehensible and easily accessible to youth.

Youth research: activities targeted at youth will be based on studies; the network of researchers will develop.

Youth work training: the Estonian Youth Work Centre is the body assigning qualification; the assignment of the qualification of a youth worker is carried out on the basis of flexible and diverse possibilities according to the qualification standard.

Recreational activities of youth: the availability of youth camps and project camps will grow; the supervisory procedures of youth camps have been established.

Work education of youth: the network of work education has been established; cooperation mechanisms of work and work education area will function; at least 1,000 young people have participated in the training of labour law; there is an Internet information site of labour law for youth.

International youth work: cooperation with international organisations and between other countries will function.

Youth participation: instructions presenting the possibilities of youth to participate in the work of local governments have been published; a youth council will function in every county; a campaign introducing youth participation has been carried out.

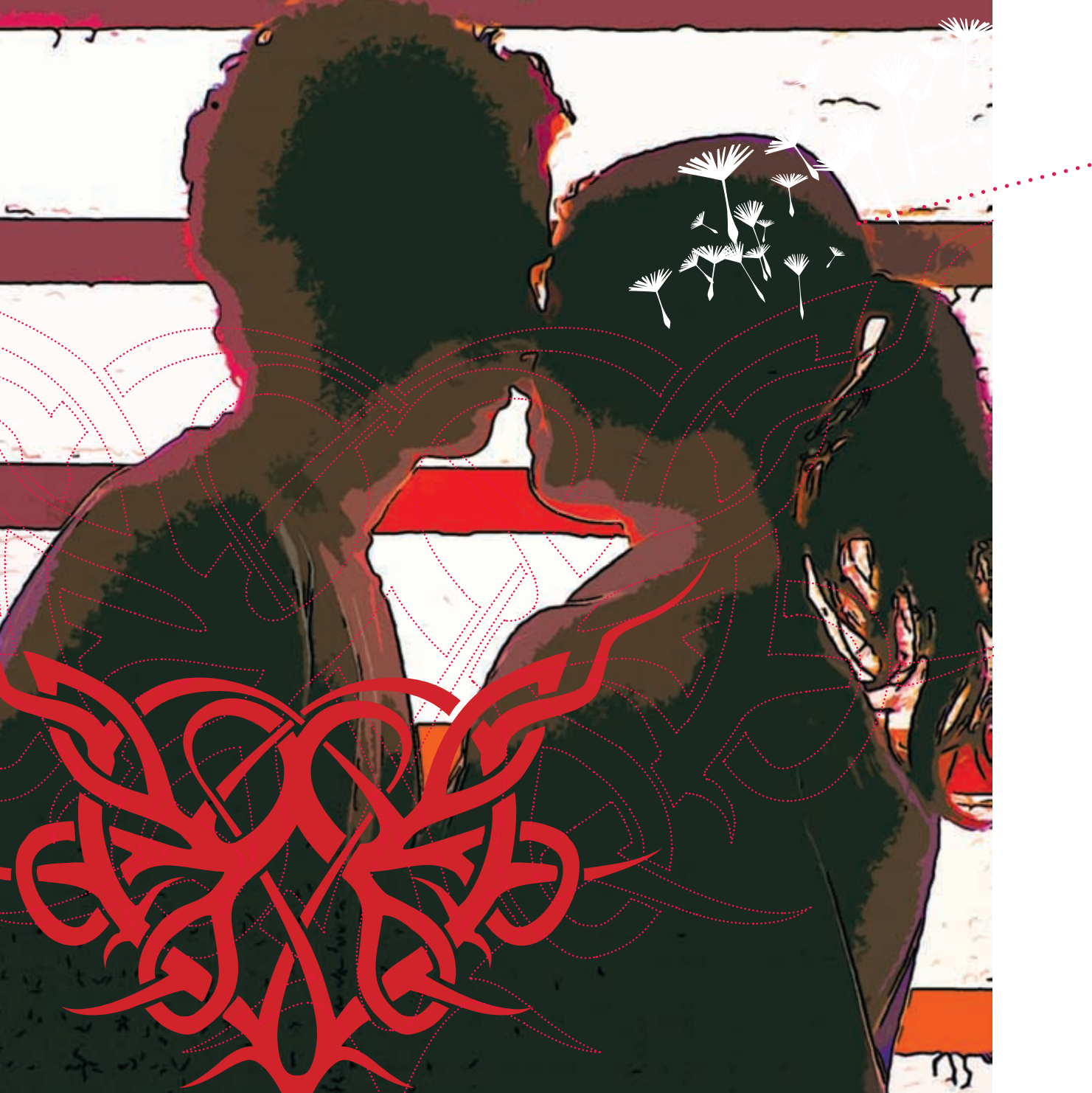
The Ministry of Education and Research submits a report on implementation, fulfilment of goals set in the strategy and its implementation plan and efficiency of measures to the Government of the Republic in April each year.

4.2. Implementation

The following interested persons and institutions at local, county and national levels will be involved in the implementation of the strategy: organisers of youth work, officials, youth workers, the youth and their representative bodies and institutions; institutions of youth work and their associations.

The ministry responsible for the implementation of the strategy is the Ministry of Education and Research.





APPENDIX: Terms used in the strategy

Open youth work method – a method of youth work that

- › is open to youth without setting reservations concerning their beliefs, skills, abilities, knowledge and economic preconditions;
- › involves youth in the initiating of activities and their development;
- › enables youth communication and developmental activity at a suitable time outside home and school and prioritises the development of youth initiatives;
- › creates conditions for non-formal learning, first of all for empirical learning through activities and communication.

Open youth centre – youth work institution that operates using the method of open youth work and where all young people can go on a voluntary basis and which is the centre of youth work organisation in the surroundings.

Formal education (system) – an hierarchically structured education system from kindergarten to university/higher education institution; education regulated by national curricula and guaranteed financially and organisationally; education activity organised by goals, that has a regular fixed duration and curriculum, that is hierarchically structured according to the chronological sequence of levels and marks, that has entrance requirements and formal registration, that is carried out in educational institutions established for this purpose by using preconditioned pedagogical structure, capacity, methods and instruction/study

materials. It involves the assignment of a degree, diploma or certificate. *(Source: Lifelong Learning Strategy 2005-2008)*

Informal education – includes all kinds of learning that proceeds from daily activities at work, with family or at spare time; is not structured (in the meaning of duration of studies or study materials) and usually does not result in a certificate; can be intentional, but in most cases is unintentional. *(Source: Lifelong Learning Strategy 2005-2008)*

Measures – means for achieving goals, sets of activities for achieving strategic goals, including programs, major projects, strategic investments. Measures are grouped by activity areas.

Non-formal education(system) – organised learning activity for specific interest groups on the basis of specific programs compiled by specialists according to the needs of the society or the wish of a client; official courses and/or training outside formal education system that are organised by formal organisations, e.g. adult training centres, open universities, adult training departments at higher and/or vocational education institutions, etc.; study activity organised by goals that is carried out institutionally but does not meet one or more requirements listed in the definition of formal education, can take place in an educational institution or outside it and can be attended by all people irrespective of their age. *(Source: Lifelong Learning Strategy 2005-2008)*

Young person – individual aged 7–26. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

Youth work – creation of conditions for young people for developmental activities that enable them to be active outside their families, formal education and job on the basis of their free will. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

Area of youth work – a group of youth work services based on institutional, contextual and/or formal similarity.

Youth work institution – public institution administered by the Ministry of Education and Research, an institution of local government or an institution of a private corporate body whose main activity is the organisation of youth work. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

Information and counselling centre of youth – an institution that gathers, processes and spreads youth information and regionally coordinates information, counselling and youth studies according to the principles of youth work.

Youth participation – young people's active or passive intervention in social processes, their impact on the decisions made in society.

Active participation – young people make and propose decisions themselves.

Passive participation – participation in activities provided by society.

Youth information – information that turns social information accessible to youth who look for it and enables them to make certain decisions or act in a certain way. The aim of youth information is to increase the variety of accessible choices by providing direct or indirect information on public life and to enable youth to make independent choices in organising their lives.

Youth council – participation council of youth (youth parliament/council), that does not have a legal status and the membership of which has been elected or delegated amongst young people. The aim of a youth council is to enable the young to participate in decision-making process and protect their interests in the spheres that concern them.

Youth camp – functions as an agency of a person or legal persons governed by public law, that has been registered in the commercial register, the Register of Non-profit Institutions and Foundations or the Register of Estonian Churches, Congregations and Associations of Congregations, that has been licensed by the Ministry of Education pursuant to Section 10 of the Youth Work Act. Youth camp meets the following requirements: 1) the duration of a shift is at least 10 days; 2) the camp functions more than 60 days in every year. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

Youth policy – a purposeful and coordinated activity in different spheres of life that proceeds from the actual needs and challenges of young people.

Activity areas of youth policy – an area performing youth policy that includes different aspects of a young person's life.

Youth program – an action plan of a youth work area that is realised by compiling specific projects and which lasts more than one year. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

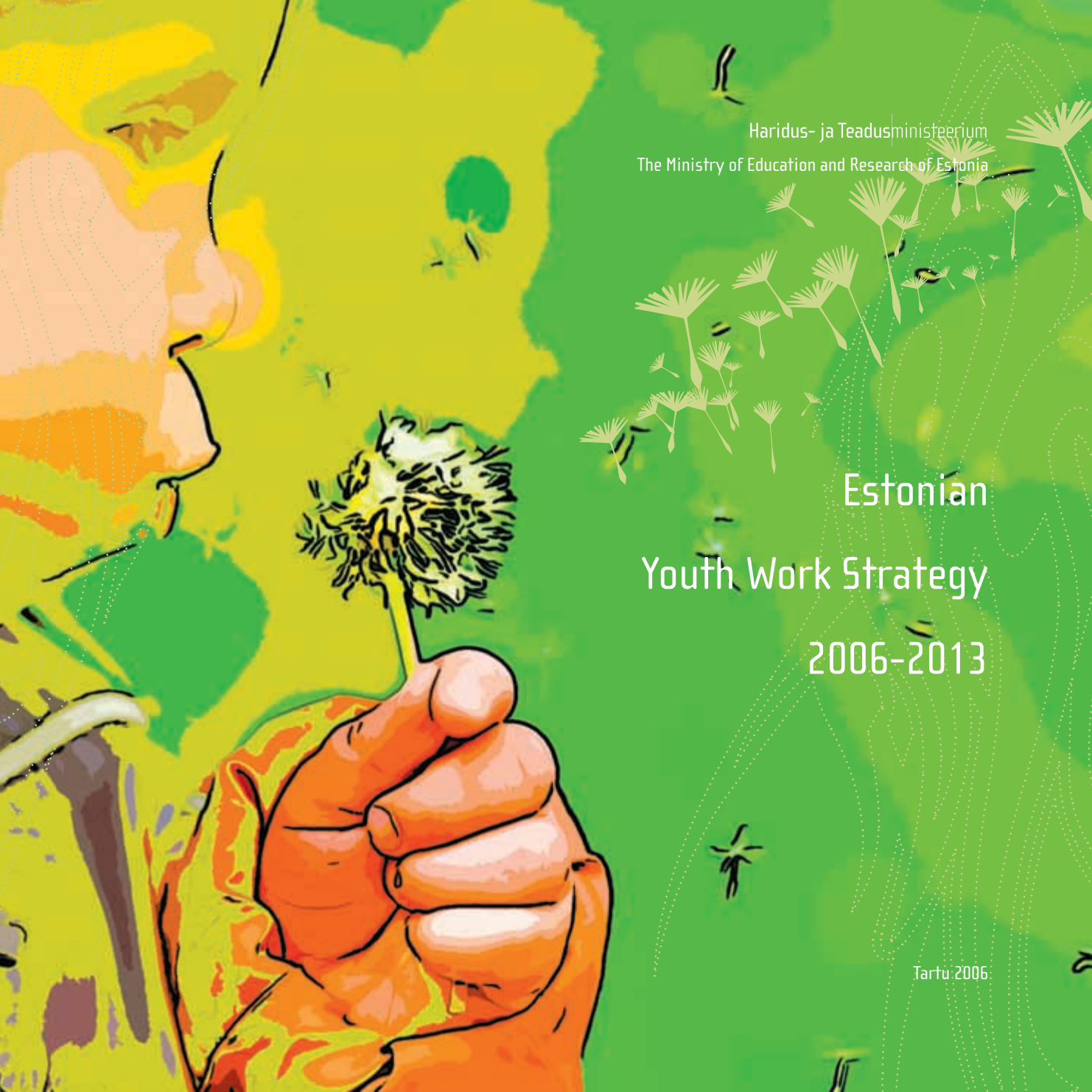
Youth project – an action plan of a youth work area, including budget, that serves the goals of youth work and the duration of which is up to one year. *(Source: the Youth work Act)*

Youth association – a non-profit association at least two-thirds of the members of which are young people with the aim of organising and performing youth work. The annual budgetary support is rendered to the youth associations that have been entered in the Register of Youth Associations of the Ministry of Education and Research. *(Source: the Youth Work Act)*

Project camp – a camp with a duration of a shift of at least six days and that does not operate more than 60 days per year. *(Source: the Youth work Act)*





A stylized illustration of a child's face in profile, blowing a dandelion seed head. The child's hand is visible, holding the stem. The background is a vibrant green with yellow and orange accents, suggesting a sunny day. Dandelion seeds are shown floating in the air, some with long, thin stems. The overall style is artistic and colorful.

Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium
The Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia

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