



# BECOMING A YOUTH WORKER IN ESTONIA

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# ESTONIAN CONTEXT

- ❖ Post-Soviet period: rapid development of youth work (among other changes of course)
- ❖ Local Government Organizations Act 1993: responsibility to organize youth work by local governments
- ❖ First youth work curricula in 1992 (first vocational, later applied higher education level, BA, 2015 MA)
- ❖ 1999 Youth Work Act
- ❖ 1999 Estonian Association of Youth Workers (different name back then)
- ❖ Estonian Association of Open Youth Centers, Estonian National Youth Council: 2002
- ❖ Occupational standard for youth workers and code of ethics in 2006

# OCCUPATIONAL STANDARD LEVEL 4

A level 4 youth worker focuses on individual youngsters and youth groups. They work with young people, their parents, other stakeholders and specialists; create a trusting relationship with the young person and maintain it; create suitable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and responsibility; organise youth work activities; and share relevant information. A youth worker supervises non-formal learning processes by creating an environment for comprehensive personal development and supporting young people's socialisation. Youth worker, level 4 works both individually and as a team member. They participate in networking and developing new strategies under the supervision of a higher-level youth worker.

Please see in more detail:

[https://enk.ee/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/N\\_kutsestandard\\_2018\\_ENG.pdf](https://enk.ee/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/N_kutsestandard_2018_ENG.pdf)



Estonian Qualifications  
Authority

Estonian Qualifications Authority forecasts the need for labour force and skills and develops qualifications standards. [Learn more!](#)

# TRAINING FOR LEVEL 4: YOUTH WORK ABC (ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH WORKERS)

The aim of the training is to support the professional self-development of the starting youth worker, so that the person operating in the field bases his work on the legal framework of youth work and the principles of youth work, knows how to plan, manage and reflect on learning processes, values professional youth work and is oriented towards cooperation.

Target group: starting youth workers who have first work experience (minimum 2 months), but no professional education or training in working with young people.

Ends with the portfolio (ready for applying level 4), mentoring during the training.  
Portfolio + interview.

# YOUTH WORK ABC MODULES

1. **Framework and landscape.** The first training module focuses on the legal framework of youth work, basic concepts and values of youth work, the structures of youth work, stakeholders and organizations in the youth field and the cooperation.
2. **Concepts.** The focus of the module is the principles of youth work, different models and theoretical foundations. The identity and role of the youth worker.
3. **Youth.** Youth development and learning. Group work principles. The "problematic" behavior of young people and the choices of the youth worker.
4. **Supporting learning in youth work.** The focus is on planning, conducting and evaluating the non-formal learning process. The application of theories in practice is understood through the practical task.
5. **Field of action.** Planning youth work activities and programs (including international cooperation), resource planning. Use of tools (from research to treasure). The impact of youth work activities.
6. **Professionalism.** Issues of professionalization of youth work, youth worker's professional competences and professional self-development

# TALLINN UNIVERSITY: APPLIED HIGHER EDUCATION (BA), LEVEL 6

## - MAIN SPECIALITY: Youth Work

- + MODULE: Youth Work Practice 28.0 ECTS credits (placement)
- + MODULE: University-Wide Courses 18.0 ECTS credits (University-Wide Courses)
- + MODULE: Specialty Electives 18.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Basics of Youth Work 30.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Youth Work Environments and Methods 22.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Organizing Youth Work 24.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Research 12.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Language specialisation 6.0 ECTS credits (core courses)
- + MODULE: Electives 16.0 ECTS credits (electives)
- + MODULE: Final exam 6.0 ECTS credits (final exam)



THANK YOU!