



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY

ACTIVITIES”

ESTONIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Statistics

Statistics on volunteering in Estonia is very scarce, until now no comprehensive survey on volunteering has been accomplished in Estonia.

2 Range of voluntary activities

No information available.

3 Finance

No information available.

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

4.1 Governmental actors

No special governmental actor on youth volunteering.

The Ministry of Research and Education takes care for issues of youth volunteering.

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Estonian Ministry of the Interior takes care for the entire area of volunteering in the country.

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4.2 Nongovernmental actors

There is no single actor which has specialised on youth volunteering. Youth volunteering is supported by several NGOs and non-profit organisations.

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Questionnaire on Voluntary Activities – Estonia

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5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular

5.1 Is there a specific legal status for volunteers or are they assimilated to other categories of people (students, workers, trainees etc?)

There is no legal definition of volunteer status in Estonia. In some fields of activity, volunteering is regulated by concrete laws.

5.2 How are volunteers and volunteer organisations taxed? Are they conceded tax exemption?

No tax exemptions, volunteers are taxed according to general rules.

5.3 Describe if volunteers are protected by social or health insurance, or if their activities are recognised by the pension system.

No, volunteers are not protected by social or health insurance; their activities are not recognized by the pension system.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

There is no special status

6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering

In 2006, Volunteer Development Estonia drafted, with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the first voluntary activity development plan in Estonia for the years 2007 to 2010. The aim of the development plan is to define common understandings, visions and tasks for facilitating and developing voluntary activity in Estonia.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

7.1 What is the relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in your country?

Under § 124 (2) of the Constitution, a person who refuses to serve in the armed forces for religious or moral reasons has a duty to perform alternative service pursuant to the procedure prescribed by law. Alternative service can not be equated with volunteering. Alternative service can be performed in units established for offering social care, emergency aid and rescue services.

7.2 If a voluntary civic service does not exist, are there plans to create one? Please provide a description.

At the moment, volunteering development plans are foremost associated with recognising volunteering as a special activity and volunteer as a special status in society.

8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities

8.1 Does a strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country? If yes, please give a short description.

It does not exist.

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 How is young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?

No special strategy and practice

9.2 What obstacles still exist?

Legally undefined status of volunteering and volunteers, recognition of skills acquired in volunteering being in early stage are perhaps those structural features that hold back youth volunteering.

9.3 What recent (this year) measures have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering? (legal, administrative measures, etc...)

No major measures have been accomplished. However, permanent work is being done to advance recognition of participation in volunteering

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

Refer to section 4.3

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

National recognition and thanksgiving event on the International Volunteer Day on the 5th of December.

10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

None exist

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 How (by which means) are voluntary activities of young people recognised?

There are no special means

11.2 Do certificates on the voluntary activities of young people exist?

The main initiative is based on using YouthPass method which is in its early stage.

There are no other generally recognised certification systems.

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

N/A

11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people? If so how (by which means)?

There is no special recognition system

12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

12.1 Co-operations and networks in favour of voluntary activities of young people at all levels (international, European, national, regional, local) with short description of the networks, their members and activities; description of how they enhance the development, facilitation, promotion and recognition of young people's voluntary activities

Refer to section 4.2

12.2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers: at all levels

Refer to section 4.2

12.3 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

12.3.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Please describe collective volunteering projects that take place this year.

Projects – none.

In 2007, a number of volunteers helped to quench a fire in Elliste bog.

12.3.2 Are there any possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects? Please describe.

No limitations; it is expected that foreigners abide Estonian laws

12.4 International solidarity volunteer service

n.a.

12.5 Does an international solidarity volunteer service (e.g. in human/natural disaster situation, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development, assistance, capacity-building etc.) exist?

No

12.5.1 Please list some major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

None

12.5.2 Please describe in how far the government/state administration is involved in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.

n.a.

13 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

There have been no well-grounded and implemented research projects on volunteering in Estonia. Several ad hoc surveys have been conducted but those do not give overall picture of the area.

A research project on volunteering in Estonia, based on data from interview survey of population aged 15-75, is expected to be finished by the end of 2008