



YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ESTONIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

Table of contents

1) Risk of poverty	3
2) Social Subsistence/Protection	3
3) Equal opportunities	4
ANNEX 5	5
ANNEX 6	7

1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	Results
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	20,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		52,2
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		0,8
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		27,7
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		31,0
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		66,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		61,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		3,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		41,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		20,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		17,00

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

Social security system in Estonia consists 7 main categories and it is valid for all citizens. *Different areas are Health insurance, Unemployment insurance, State unemployment allowances, State family benefits, Social benefits for disabled people, State funeral benefits and Pension insurance.* (<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441> .)

Health insurance system started in January 1. 1992. Estonian health insurance is a social insurance and it is the principle of solidarity. *The Health Insurance Fund* covers the cost of health services needed by the person in case of illness regardless of the amount of social tax paid for the person concerned. The Fund uses the social tax paid for the working population also for covering the cost of health services provided to persons who have no income with regard to work activities. (<http://veeb.haigekassa.ee/eng/health/outline/>). Health insurance is a compulsory for all employers in all ages with economic activity and it is paid by employer or self-employed person in social tax.

(http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/tables_part_2_en.pdf .)

Children under 19 years of age and full time students under the age of 24 get *the health insurance* for free on the principle of solidarity. It is also free for women from the 12th week of pregnancy.

(<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441> .)

Unemployment insurance benefits are granted upon unemployment, collective redundancy and insolvency of employers for all adults (<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441>).

State *family benefits* are useful for young families. Young families with children can request house hold help and some low income families have possibility to get 50 % off their student loans if they have children while they are studying.

Parental income is a possibility for 15 months after having a baby. Estonian government tries to encourage young people to have children with these allowances.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Maternity allowance is paid for 126 days and it is 100% of last year's income. *Child allowance* is paid until the child turns 16 but if he or she is still at school this allowance is paid until 19 years of age. All children who go to school and get the child allowance can also get the school allowance, and it is a same amount than child allowance. Birth allowance is one time payment that is paid for every child and it is a same mount as one year child allowance.

(<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/esitykset/he/1997/19970072> .)

All students who are Estonian citizens are entitled to *student grant* if they haven't overdone their normal studying time. With a good reason they have a possibility to apply for extra time. Doctor students are encouraged to study with an extra student grant that they can apply for if they haven't got a job while they are studying. Estonia is the first Baltic country in 1997 where students were able to get student loan. It is possible to get from a bank if studies are full time, longer than 9 months and higher education than high school. Part-time students are also able to get student loans in some circumstances for example teacher studies.

(http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/inthigheredfinance/region_Europe_Estonia.pdf .)

Sources

<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441>

<http://veeb.haigekassa.ee/eng/health/outline/>

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/tables_part_2_en.pdf

[http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf)

http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/inthigheredfinance/region_Europe_Estonia.pdf

<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/esitykset/he/1997/19970072>

3) Equal opportunities

Estonia is a relatively new country in Europe. It has adopted a liberal model of economic growth but it isn't equal at all. There are great economical differences between different parts of the country. Major problems for young people are education differences, unemployment, poverty and language difficulties in different areas and gender equality.

Educational inequality

Educational inequality increases because there are two different kinds of schools in Estonia. All schools are funded by the government but there are also a small amount of private schools. It is very difficult to get in into these private schools and some of them are quite expensive. In these schools students get funding based on how well they are graded in studies. This school system recreates inequality between students already in young ages before university.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

- Unemployment

Young people are more likely to be unemployed than adults. Young unemployment rate was 12 % in 2006 and it was twice as high as adults rate 5,9 %. Young female unemployment rate was 14,7 % and male 10 %. Long-term

unemployment was more common in all ethnic minorities.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

- Poverty and ethnic minorities

Estonia has the highest level of poverty in the EU area. Poverty is more common in Russian speaking population. Ida-Viru area in eastern Estonia is the poorest area. Most social allowances are paid into that area. Russian speaking minority is in an unequal position. Unemployment and poverty are more common. Estonia's only official language is Estonian although 29 % of the population speaks Russian, (26 % Russians, 3 % Ukrainians and Belarussians). In years 2006–2007, 20 % of young people were studying in Russian speaking schools but in Ida-Viru area percent was 73 %. Most of the Russian speaking university students study abroad mainly in Russia or in different countries around Europe.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

- Gender

Gender equality is still a big problem in Estonia. The draft *Gender Equality Act* was approved by the government in 2001. Gender equality in its contemporary, internationally recognised meaning is a relatively new concept.

(<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2003/12/feature/ee0312102f.htm> .)

Young women aren't very interested in gender equality issues. Women that participate in equality congresses are mainly over 30 years old. Although difference between female and male earned income is 0,64.

(<http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?module=project&page=country&CountryISO=EE>.) Although the earned income difference is getting better because the difference between women and men under 30 is 18,2% and adults over 30 it is 25% ([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Although the income difference is quite big, Estonian women are highly educated. In year 2001 64 % of university graduates were women. (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/gender/estonia.pdf> .)

Violence toward women and family violence is still a big problem. Actions to prevent it have made in Estonian speaking areas but in poorer Russian speaking areas problem is bigger. Safe houses are only in biggest cities, like in Tallinn, Tartu and Kohtla-Järve. 80 % of prostitutes are Russian speaking people.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Sources

[http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf)

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2003/12/feature/ee0312102f.htm>

<http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?module=project&page=country&CountryISO=EE>

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/gender/estonia.pdf>

ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTENCE / PROTECTION IN ESTONIA

Social security system in Estonia consists 7 main categories and it is valid for all citizens. *Different areas are Health insurance, Unemployment insurance, State unemployment allowances, State family benefits, Social benefits for disabled people, State funeral benefits and Pension insurance.* (<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441> .)

Health insurance system started in January 1. 1992. Estonian health insurance is a social insurance and it is the principle of solidarity. *The Health Insurance Fund* covers the cost of health services needed by the person in case of illness regardless of the amount of social tax paid for the person concerned. The Fund uses the social tax paid for the working

population also for covering the cost of health services provided to persons who have no income with regard to work activities. (<http://veeb.haigekassa.ee/eng/health/outline/>). Health insurance is a compulsory for all employers in all ages with economic activity and it is paid by employer or self-employed person in social tax. (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/tables_part_2_en.pdf).

Children under 19 years of age and full time students under the age of 24 get *the health insurance* for free on the principle of solidarity. It is also free for women from the 12th week of pregnancy. (<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441>).

Unemployment insurance benefits are granted upon unemployment, collective redundancy and insolvency of employers for all adults (<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441>).

State *family benefits* are useful for young families. Young families with children can request house hold help and some low income families have possibility to get 50 % off their student loans if they have children while they are studying. Parental income is a possibility for 15 months after having a baby. Estonian government tries to encourage young people to have children with these allowances.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf)).

Maternity allowance is paid for 126 days and it is 100% of last year's income. *Child allowance* is paid until the child turns 16 but if he or she is still at school this allowance is paid until 19 years of age. All children who go to school and get the child allowance can also get the school allowance, and it is a same amount than child allowance. Birth allowance is one time payment that is paid for every child and it is a same mount as one year child allowance.

(<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/esitykset/he/1997/19970072>).

All students who are Estonian citizens are entitled to *student grant* if they haven't overdone their normal studying time. With a good reason they have a possibility to apply for extra time. Doctor students are encouraged to study with an extra student grant that they can apply for if they haven't got a job while they are studying. Estonia is the first Baltic country in 1997 where students were able to get student loan. It is possible to get from a bank if studies are full time, longer than 9 months and higher education than high school. Part-time students are also able to get student loans in some circumstances for example teacher studies.

(http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/inthigheredfinance/region_Europe_Estonia.pdf).

Sources :

<http://www.sm.ee/engtxt/pages/goproweb0441>

<http://veeb.haigekassa.ee/eng/health/outline/>

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2007/tables_part_2_en.pdf

[http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf)

http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/inthigheredfinance/region_Europe_Estonia.pdf

<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/esitykset/he/1997/19970072>

ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ESTONIA

Estonia is a relatively new country in Europe. It has adopted a liberal model of economic growth but it isn't equal at all. There are great economical differences between different parts of the country. Major problems for young people are education differences, unemployment, poverty and language difficulties in different areas and gender equality.

Educational inequality

Educational inequality increases because there are two different kinds of schools in Estonia. All schools are funded by the government but there are also a small amount of private schools. It is very difficult to get in into these private schools and some of them are quite expensive. In these schools students get funding based on how well they are graded in studies. This school system recreates inequality between students already in young ages before university. ([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Unemployment

Young people are more likely to be unemployed than adults. Young unemployment rate was 12 % in 2006 and it was twice as high as adults rate 5,9 %. Young female unemployment rate was 14,7 % and male 10 %. Long-term unemployment was more common in all ethnic minorities. ([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Poverty and ethnic minorities

Estonia has the highest level of poverty in the EU area. Poverty is more common in Russian speaking population. Ida-Viru area in eastern Estonia is the poorest area. Most social allowances are paid into that area. Russian speaking minority is in an unequal position. Unemployment and poverty are more common. Estonia's only official language is Estonian although 29 % of the population speaks Russian, (26 % Russians, 3 % Ukrainians and Belarussians). In years 2006–2007, 20 % of young people were studying in Russian speaking schools but in Ida-Viru area percent was 73 %. Most of the Russian speaking university students study abroad mainly in Russia or in different countries around Europe. ([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Gender

Gender equality is still a big problem in Estonia. The draft *Gender Equality Act* was approved by the government in 2001. Gender equality in its contemporary, internationally recognised meaning is a relatively new concept. (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2003/12/feature/ee0312102f.htm> .)

Young women aren't very interested in gender equality issues. Women that participate in equality congresses are mainly over 30 years old. Although difference between female and male earned income is 0,64. (<http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?module=project&page=country&CountryISO=EE>.)

Although the earned income difference is getting better because the difference between women and men under 30 is 18,2% and adults over 30 it is 25% ([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Although the income difference is quite big, Estonian women are highly educated. In year 2001 64 % of university graduates were women. (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/gender/estonia.pdf> .)

Violence toward women and family violence is still a big problem. Actions to prevent it have made in Estonian speaking areas but in poorer Russian speaking areas problem is bigger. Safe houses are only in biggest cities, like in Tallinn, Tartu and Kohtla-Järve. 80 % of prostitutes are Russian speaking people.

([http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf) .)

Sources :

[http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/\\$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/eng/HtmlPages/EstoniaYouthReportFinal/$file/Estonia%20Youth%20Report%20Final.pdf)

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/2003/12/feature/ee0312102f.htm>

<http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?module=project&page=country&CountryISO=EE>

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/gender/estonia.pdf>