

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

ESTONIA



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Introduction and general guidelines

This template for an information sheet on 'Youth and the world' asks about the opportunities that are given to young people (age 13-30) and youth organizations in your country to gain awareness of and actively contribute to development and interregional global cooperation. In the European Union, "Youth and the world" is one of the eight topics of the Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field"¹ "Young people's participation in and contribution to global processes of policy-making, implementation and follow-up (concerning issues such as climate change, the UN Millennium Development Goals, human rights, etc.) and young people's cooperation with regions outside of Europe should be supported. Besides, the communication of the Commission "Investing and Empowering" establishes that "Young Europeans are very concerned by global challenges, such as violation of fundamental rights, economic disparities, and environmental degradation. They wish to demonstrate solidarity with the rest of the world by fighting discrimination, helping others and safekeeping the environment"². "Young people's participation in and contribution to global processes of policy-making, implementation and follow-up (concerning issues such as climate change, the UN Millennium Development Goals, human rights, etc.) and young people's cooperation with regions outside of Europe should be supported."³

Since 1990 the Council of Europe fosters Global education and interregional cooperation targeting young people through the North South Center in Lisbon. In particular, the North South Centre organizes every year the University on Youth and Development. Moreover, the Council of Europe's current priorities in youth policy and action⁴ Human rights and Democracy and Living together in diverse societies address global issues. Finally, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recently issued a Recommendation on the Council of Europe Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education⁵ and a Recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity⁶.

Write the name of the country when it is required.

Write source and year in a footnote for each information and data provided.

¹ European Council "Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), OJ C 311, 19 December 2009"

² European Commission "Communication from the Commission 'An EU strategy for youth – investing and empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities" 2009, COM 200 final

³ European Commission "Staff working document on EU indicators in the field of youth" 2011, SEC 401 final

⁴ Council of Europe 8th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth Kyiv, Ukraine, 10-11 October 2008 Declaration "The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020" 2008

⁵ CM/Rec (2010)7

⁶ CM/Rec (2011)4

1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

Global education to young people in Estonia is implemented within the framework of integrated youth policy. It is implemented mainly by NGOs which work in close cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to Current Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013, youth work is carried out in 10 fields. Amongst them are the fields of International Youth Work and Information and Counselling. Focus of both of the specific fields is on providing young people with opportunities to develop their life skills and key competences through experiences they get from international encounters (formal and non-formal education, training, working, youth projects, work placement). Intercultural learning is one of main themes within that sub-area of youth work.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global education?

National Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Development Plan 2011-2015.

Youth-specific measures are mentioned in several places.

Objective 10: To increase capacities of organisations carrying out development cooperation activities in public and private sphere. /includes also youth NGOs/

Objective 11: To increase awareness of general public, but in specially young people, about development cooperation and global development problems.⁷

Before Development Plan 2011-2015, National Development Plan 2006-2010 was implemented. The earlier development plan contained similar objectives as the current plan has.⁸

How is Global Education promoted?

At national level, themes of development cooperation and humanitarian aid are the responsibility of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry runs a number of intergovernmental activities as well as supports activities of a range of NGOs which are active in Estonia. The national NGOs

⁷ EESTI ARENGUKOOSTÖÖ JA HUMANITAARABI ARENGUKAVA 2011–2015 / National development cooperation and humanitarian aid plan 2011-2015. <http://valitsus.ee/et/valitsus/arengukavad/valispoliitika/Eesti-arengukoostoo-ja-humanitaarabi-arengukava-2011-2015>

⁸ EESTI ARENGUKOOSTÖÖ JA HUMANITAARABI ARENGUKAVA 2006–2010 / National development cooperation and humanitarian aid plan 2006-2010. http://web-static.vm.ee/static/failid/219/AH_strateegia_2006-2010.pdf

are affiliated with international networks and initiatives in the field. The NGOs are supported and/or sponsored also by other institutions and companies to carry out their programs and projects.

The main partner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation. The ERDC is a Network of Estonian non-governmental organisations (currently 21 organisations) working in the field of development cooperation and global education. Its mission is to involve the Estonian public, organisations and the state to take an active role in development cooperation and global solidarity, as well as to help eliminate poverty and improve human development across the world. Its main goals are to strengthen the role and capacity of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of development cooperation activities, improve Estonian development policies and raise awareness of the general public about opportunities to actively promote global solidarity.⁹

The ERDC was first formed in 2002, it was registered as a NGO in 2007. First public activities were carried out in 2005. Currently the network is working in close cooperation with similar networks from Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania.

Since 2004, the ERDC is national partner to Global Education Network (GLEN), which sends volunteers from 10 European developed countries to developing countries.

Since 2005, the ERDC organizes the public awareness raising event “World Day” in Estonia.

Other activities of the ERDC include training seminars to advance global education and increase awareness of general public and young people as well.

NGO Mondo

NGO Mondo is a member organization of the ERDC.

One of its four activity strands is global education. In this field, the organization has two goals:

- To increase general awareness of globalisation problems,
- To increase respect for human rights, tolerance and solidarity with poor regions.

The organisation has established Global Education Centre

(<http://mondo.org.ee/maailmahariduskeskus/>) to run global education projects, and a thematic library.¹⁰ In early 2013, seven educational programs were underway, mostly focusing on teacher training and increasing awareness of young people.¹¹

Global Education (www.maailmakool.ee) is a portal for global education. www.1maailm.ee is global education portal targeted to young people.

⁹ The ERDC homepage, organization. <http://www.terveilm.ee/et/organisatsioon-2/>

¹⁰ Global education, <http://www.maailmakool.ee/mis-on-maailmaharidus/>

¹¹ NGO Mondo, <http://mondo.org.ee/maailmahariduskeskus/>

Humana Estonia

Humana Estonia is a member organization of the ERDC. Its mission is to raise funds for global charity projects through trade of used consumables and clothes. One of its activity strands is also increasing public awareness of poverty and global problems and to support global education and value education.¹²

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

The network is coordinated by NGO Mondo, it was established in 2010. Currently 17 schools have joined the network and three schools more are have expressed wish to be included in the network too but are currently in the status of candidate schools.

The network focuses on promoting four themes:

- Global issues and the role of UN in finding solutions to the problems,
- Human rights, democracy and tolerance
- Intercultural learning and understanding
- Sustainable development and environmental issues.¹³

Baltic Sea Project

The Baltic Sea Project is an international network among schools for a better environment in the Baltic catchment area. The countries bordering on the Baltic share many environmental problems, one of which is the pollution of the Baltic Sea. These problems can only be solved by cooperation among those countries, which have different languages, cultures, habits, traditions and technical standards. In attempting to solve the environmental problems, education is one of the key factors. The Baltic Sea Project (BSP) has therefore initiated cooperation among schools in all the countries around the Baltic. Today, some 200 schools are active in the BSP. Most are secondary schools situated on the Baltic coast, but the number of inland schools from the entire catchment area is increasing. In many schools, the BSP has been organized as a joint effort including many subjects.¹⁴

Currently 30 secondary schools in Estonia are involved.¹⁵

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

Events and projects organized in Estonia have focused mainly on rising awareness on opportunities to get involved in development cooperation, on global issues in general as well as on background and specific features of developing countries.

¹² NGO Humana Estonia,

http://www.humanae.ee/index.php?PHPSESSID=fd7d0b4a499320eddb528eff6bef2832&frm_app_page=6&frm_app_action=1&frm_app_id=306,

¹³ NGO Mondo, <http://mondo.org.ee/eesti-unesco-uhendkoolide-vorgustik/>

¹⁴ The Baltic Sea Project. <http://www.b-s-p.org/about/>

¹⁵ The Baltic Sea Project. <http://www.b-s-p.org/about/schools/3210-estonia.html>

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

At national level, the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its main partner the EDRC network are the main actors and stakeholders in the field. Of course, all member organisations of the network are also involved and interested in developments in the field.

Is there any report/survey available on Global Education and young people in your country?

What is their focus and what are the main outcomes?

The themes have not been included in recent surveys on young people in Estonia.

The ministry of Foreign Affairs has commissioned two surveys, in 2005 and 2008.

Public opinion survey conducted in 2008 showed that the age group 15-19 years old was more interested in global themes and age group 20-29 years old was less interested in global themes, compared to overall average of 15-74 years old population. The age group of 20-29 years old was less aware of fair trade. Age group 15-29 years old was least ware of development cooperation themes of Estonia. The same age group is quite ready to donate money or spend time for development cooperation.¹⁶

NGO Mondo commissioned a study on estimation of effects of global education. 10 qualitative interviews with global education teachers and 277 survey interviews with pupils aged 14-18 years were conducted. The study compared results from those who were involved in global education program with control group, or pupils who were not involved in global education program. The results show that involvement in the program was accompanied with higher awareness of global issues.¹⁷

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging sustainable consumption and production with young people?

There are no specifically youth targeted sustainable consumption and production initiatives. Youth has the opportunity to participate in activities targeted to general public.

¹⁶ Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, surveys on themes related to development cooperation <http://www.vm.ee/&q=taxonomy/term/90?q=et/node/4531>

¹⁷ Vihma, P. 2012. Maailmahariduse mõju hindamise uuringu raport. /Effects of global education programm. Research report./

www.hoia.ee is an information portal targeted to younger age groups. It focuses on educating children on themes environmental and sustainable consumption themes through properly designed books and cartoons.

NGO Ecomedia runs information portal www.bioneer.ee which offers e-learning courses on sustainable consumption. The portal aims to increase awareness of environmental issues.

Earth Day is celebrated by a number of organisations all around in Estonia, but not as a centrally organised event.

Water Day is celebrated by fewer organisations.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

The Ministry of Environment has commissioned three surveys in 2008, 2010 and 2012 which are representative of population 15-74 years old.

Younger people (15-29 year olds) tend to assess their environmental awareness to be somewhat lower than older age groups. Interest in environmental issues was reportedly lowest in age group 15-19 year olds.¹⁸

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

A nationwide representative survey of 15-25 year olds from 2004 shows that a connection to an environmental organization was reported by 5,2% of respondents (membership 1,2%, participation in activities 2,7%, volunteering 2,6%).¹⁹

In early 2011, 2% of 15-30 year olds in Estonia reported participation in an organisation active in the domain of global climate change/global warming. European average was 3%.²⁰

¹⁸ EESTI ELANIKE KESKKONNATEADLIKKUS. Eesti 15-74-aastase elanikkonna uuring. Juuli 2012. /Environmental awareness in Estonia. July 2012/

<http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1187006/Eesti+elanike+keskkonnateadlikkus2012aruanne.pdf>

¹⁹ Taru, M. 2005. Political Participation of Young People in Europe – Development of Indicators for Comparative Research in the European Union (EUYOUPART). Deliverable 15: National report on results of youth survey in Estonia.

http://www.sora.at/fileadmin/images/content/Pages/euyoupart_nationalreport-estonia.pdf

²⁰ Flash EB Series #319a. Youth on the move. Analytical report. / Q1. Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations?

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

A nationwide representative survey of 15-25 year olds from 2004 shows that a connection to a human rights organization was reported by 2,4% of respondents (membership 0,7%, participation in activities 1,5%, volunteering 1,2%).²¹

In early 2011, 2% of 15-30 year olds in Estonia reported participation in an organisation promoting human rights or global development. European average was 5%.²²

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any agreements on cooperation with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

The Ministry of Education and Research had cooperation agreement with China from 2008 to 2012. Currently negotiations are underway with an aim to develop new cooperation agreement between Estonia and China. Main priorities of the former cooperation agreement were youth participation and support to network building, activities of the cooperation agreement included youth exchanges.

Cooperation with Japan started in 2006, in the framework of Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission. The main goals of the initiative include increased cooperation in the fields of education and cultural exchange. Activities include information exchange, youth exchanges and mutual visits.

Cooperation with Asian countries has taken place also in the form of events organised by embassies of different countries, also within the framework of GLEN-exchanges.

²¹ Taru, M. 2005. Political Participation of Young People in Europe – Development of Indicators for Comparative Research in the European Union (EUYOUPART). Deliverable 15: National report on results of youth survey in Estonia.
http://www.sora.at/fileadmin/images/content/Pages/euyoupart_nationalreport-estonia.pdf

²² Flash EB Series #319a. Youth on the move. Analytical report. / Q1. Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations?

Between 2012 and 2014, a comparative analysis of youth policy and youth work developments of Estonia and Moldova is carried out. The analysis is expected to lead to conclusions which will be beneficial for developing the youth field in both countries.

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and/or youth research

No projects.

Existing contacts and support to the development and promotion of youth work on other continents

No initiatives.

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

There are no national programs.

The EDRC hosts volunteer exchange network GLEN. Every year some young people have an opportunity to spend time in a country which needs their expertise, time and energy.

ESTYES

NGO ESTYES organises volunteering in different countries. Length of volunteering varies from more than 6 months to stays as short as one week. ESTYES is affiliated with 9 volunteering networks (The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organization, Coordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service, Asia-Europe Foundation ASEF, Senior European Volunteers Exchange Network SEVEN, Youth Action for Peace, Service Civil International, Eastlinks, International Cultural Youth Exchange ICYE, Association of Voluntary Service Organisations).²³

AIESEC

Youth organisation AIESEC organises a relatively short-term (6-12 weeks) volunteering programs during summer vacation.

Youth organisation AIESEC organises also The Global Internship programme in Eastern countries as well as in European countries.

²³ ESTYES, http://www.estyes.ee/index.php?loc=13&tree=1_13&lang=1

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions / countries outside of Europe

There are no such activities underway.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations to policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

Youth participation in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues takes place within the general framework of youth participation.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

No such survey has been conducted.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Refer to sections 2.2 and 2.3. No surveys with specific focus on the topic have been conducted.