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INFORMATION SHEET VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

ESTONIA



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Volunteering of young people in Estonia _____	2
2. Main actors and networks _____	4
3. Promotion of volunteering of young people _____	5
4. Mobility of young volunteers _____	7
5. Sources of information _____	8

1. Volunteering of young people in [Country]

Give an overview on volunteering of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) concerning volunteering of young people?

- On national level: Y/N

Volunteering of young people is explicitly mentioned neither in new Youth Work Act, adopted in June 2010 nor in National Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013. Annual report on implementation of the National Youth Work Strategy in 2009 sees volunteering as a part of youth work in the sense that it provides opportunities for personality development that aid integration to labour market. Volunteering is mentioned in several contexts.

Youth in Action National Agency supports youth volunteering abroad and finding appropriate organisations in Estonia for young volunteers from abroad.

In 2010, National Youth Work Centre started a joint program together with Unemployment Fund (T.A.H.E.) which is aimed at providing young unemployed people with opportunities to obtain work experience prior to applying for a job.

No legal definition of volunteering has been adopted in Estonia which makes inclusion of volunteering in official documents of youth work and youth policy complicated. Currently, legal framework for volunteering in general is being developed within the framework of Development Plan of Civic Activism 2007-2010. Youth Department at the Ministry of Research and Education is included in this process.

- On regional level: Y/N

Estonia is a unitary state and there are no separate regulations on regional level.

An opinion survey study conducted in May 2009 (Möller et al. 2009) gives the following picture of (youth) volunteering and volunteers.

Age and education background of volunteers

The share of 15-24 year olds in the sample was 24% and the share of the 25-34 olds was 17%. 18% of the group were high school or college students, 2% were on child leave.

Age and education background of non-volunteers.

The share of 15-24 year olds in the sample was 16%, the share of 25-34 year olds was 19%. 9% were high school or university students, 6% were on child leave.

Age groups' and students' percentage among volunteers and non-volunteers

	Volunteer	Non-volunteer
15-24 yr olds	24%	16%
25-34 yr olds	17%	19%
35-49 yr olds	29%	25%
50-64 yr olds	20%	26%
65+ yr olds	10%	15%
High school, college student	18%	9%

Among volunteers one finds higher percentage of young people aged 15-24 than among non-volunteers. The same does not hold for people in age brackets 25-34 years, where there is negative difference or no difference.

Among volunteers one finds higher percentage of students than among non-volunteers.

According to another survey among 15-30 year olds, over the period between July 2008 and July 2009, 21% of young people had participated in volunteering (Jõe 2009). Volunteering is a bit more common among 15-19 year olds than among 25-30 year olds.

	Total sample	Volunteers only
15-19 yr olds	32%	40%
20-24 yr olds	28%	26%
25-30 yr olds	40%	34%

Both surveys agree that volunteering is most popular among the youngest of young people – among those around or below 20 years of age.

- *Is volunteering usually paid? Y/N*

Volunteering is not paid

- *Is there any National voluntary service? Y/N*

There is no national voluntary service framework in Estonia.

- *What is the legal / financial (fiscal) / social security status of volunteers?*

People involved in volunteering do not enjoy any financial, tax or social security benefits. Certain amount of donations to an organisation that is included in the list of nonprofit organisations compiled by the Government, are freed from turnover tax (if the donation is made by an organisation) or can be deducted from taxable income (if the donation is made by a person). Organisations involved in volunteering are usually included in this list.

2. Main actors and networks

- *Who are the main actors (institutional and NGOs) in the field of volunteering of young people on the different levels?*

- National:

Legal framework of volunteering in general is being developed by the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

Youth volunteering is being developed by Department of Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Research and Education.

- NGOs

Volunteering Development Estonia (www.vabatahtlikud.ee) is the main actor in non-governmental sector, which is involved in the development of legal framework.

In 2010, five regional volunteering centres were started; mobilising youth is amongst priorities of the centres.

Youth in Action Estonian National Agency (euroopa.noored.ee; YiA Na is a foundation, not NGO) is amongst main organisations which organises youth volunteering within the European Voluntary Service.

There are also other youth organisations that organise youth volunteering both in Estonia and abroad: Continuous Action (<http://www.continuousaction.ee/?lang=2>, EstYes <http://www.estyes.ee/index.php?lang=2>, GLEN (Global Education Network <http://www.terveilm.net/?id=5>), YFU (<http://www.yfu.ee/en/>), youth volunteering chapter of Good Deed Foundation (SINA noored <http://www.sinanoored.ee/>). There are also other organisations which are involved in organising volunteering and youth volunteering (Estonian Fund for Nature www.talgud.ee, Teeme Ära www.teemeara.ee, NGO Estonian Village Movement Kodukant (<http://www.kodukant.ee/index.php>))

- Regional:

- Local:

- *Are any organisations in this field specifically targeting youth (as participants in voluntary activities and voluntary services)?*

Continuous Action (<http://www.continuousaction.ee/?lang=2>, EstYes <http://www.estyes.ee/index.php?lang=2>, GLEN (Global Education Network <http://www.terveilm.net/?id=5>), YFU (<http://www.yfu.ee/en/>), youth volunteering chapter of Good Deed Foundation (SINA noored <http://www.sinanoored.ee/>).

- *Do networks and/or co-operations exist for supporting volunteering of young people in your country?*

Yes

- *What is the legal / financial (fiscal) status of organisations promoting volunteering?*

There is no special status except that donations made to organisations included in the list compiled by Government are free from turnover tax. Most of the organisations are non-governmental non-profit organisations.

3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

- Which methods among the one listed below are the most used to promote volunteering of young people in your country?

By national policies:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centres
- funding of NGOs
- Other:
- None

By NGOs:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centres
- Other:
- None

Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.

Opportunities of volunteering are advertised on posters in public places and other media channels, electronic media, on information sheets distributed in youth work institutions and organisations, through youth counselling in counselling centres and in other youth work institutions.

- Which among the followings are methods of recognition of volunteering of young people in your country?

- European Youth Pass
- Certificates
- Credits in the formal education system
- Awards
- Incentives
- They are valued in the CV
- Other:
- They are not recognised

Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.

Experiences obtained in volunteering can be included in youth pass and in CV. Prior work experiences of the applicant are valued by employers as well as by NGOs.

There are many opportunities to recognise volunteering and volunteers. On national level, national volunteer recognition event is held on 5th of December (since 2005), on International Volunteer Day.

- What obstacles to young people's engagement in volunteering do exist and how are these faced by national policies?

The main obstacles are structural: absence of legal status of volunteering and volunteer, absence of national system of volunteering, problems with recognition of non-formal learning experiences.

4. Mobility of young volunteers

- Is there any national monitoring of how mobility of young volunteers takes place? Y/N

No

National youth monitoring system (www.noorteseire.ee) contains indicators on youth volunteering. However, the indicators do not characterise mobility of young volunteers but rather overall rate of volunteering.

- What are these monitoring mechanisms? If yes, please explain.

5. Sources of information

Jõe, H. (2009). Noored ja vabatahtlik tegevus. Pp. 102-113 in Parts, V. (ed). Noortemonitor 2009. Tallinn: Eesti Noorsoo Instituut ja Eesti Noorsootöö Keskus / Youth and volunteering. Pp. 102-133 in Youth Monitor 2009. Parts, V. (ed). Tallinn: Estonian Youth Institute and Estonian Youth Work Centre

Möller, G., Ender, J. and Mänd, K. (2009). Vabatahtlikus tegevuses osalemine Eestis.uuringu aruanne. Tallinn: TNS EMOR and SAPraxis / Volunteering in Estonia. Research report.

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Websites:

www.vabatahtlikud.ee

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www.noorteseire.ee

<http://www.continuousaction.ee/?lang=2>

<http://www.estyes.ee/index.php?lang=2>

<http://www.terveilm.net/?id=5>

<http://www.yfu.ee/en/>

<http://www.sinanoored.ee/>

www.talgud.ee

www.teemeara.ee