



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH



# YOUTH FIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

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# YOUTH FIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

Referred sources are in English where available



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## INTRODUCTION

To cope with the challenges Estonian society is facing, it is very important how and in which direction the young generation of Estonia develop, and what kind of development wish for their families, community and country. In this development plan a young person is defined as being between 7 and 26 years of age. Youth field<sup>1</sup> is the sphere of life that is most multilaterally related to young people, and its development and the challenges it is likely to face in the future are based on the current state and development needs of young people themselves, youth policy, youth work and society as a whole.

In 2006 the Estonian Government aimed to develop and implement coordinated and focused activities in different spheres of life based on the actual needs and challenges young people face – an integrated youth policy. Although Estonia has achieved notable success in moving towards this goal, further progress is needed in several courses of action. Moreover, changes in young people's state in society result in a constant need to address these challenges with changes in activities in the youth field.

Considering the state of young people and the goals the Estonian Government has set out, the focus in the youth field for the period 2014-2020 should be on the following:

- increasing opportunities for the creativity development, initiative, and collective actions of young people;
- reducing the effects of unequal circumstances on the development opportunities of young people, and preventing exclusion;
- supporting the active involvement of young people in community life and decision-making processes;
- ensuring labour market success for young people; and
- developing high-quality youth policy and youth work.

These focal points of the development plan are to be addressed through four sub-goals and measures. An implementation plan is to be developed to ensure delivery of the measures outlined.

The youth field development plan primarily contributes to the objectives of the 'Estonia 2020' Competitiveness Strategy and to the objectives and activities of the Action Programme of the Government of the Republic. Among other things, implementation of the youth field development plan is necessary to achieve the goals set in other policy domains, such as family and population policy, labour market and social security policy, sports and integration policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Youth field, i.e. youth policy and youth work

## I STARTING POINTS

### 1. BACKGROUND TO AND PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATION

At the state level, development of the youth field is being planned for the third time. The “Estonian Youth Work Concept” and the “Estonian Youth Work Development Plan 2001-2004” were drafted in 2001, these were followed by the ‘Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013’ which was approved in 2006. What differentiates this development plan from the previous documents is its approach to focus on goals and measures that will help to achieve positive change in the most significant challenges – the plan does not describe measures in all areas of youth work and youth policy.

The development plan is based on four main perspectives adopted for setting goals:

- 1) situation of young people and its trends of change;
- 2) developments in society and the challenges the state is facing, including goals in coherent policies;
- 3) current situation of the youth field, including youth work and youth policy: work done so far, principles and development needs;
- 4) trends in Europe and around the world, including objectives of the EU.

The focal points, goals and measures described in the development plan are also based on analysis of these perspectives.

### 2. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### 2.1. THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The youth field<sup>2</sup> aims to young people aged 7 to 26<sup>3</sup>. As at 1 January 2013 there were 288 492 people in this age range in Estonia, representing 22.4% of the Estonian population<sup>4</sup>. As in many other European countries, the proportion of young people in the population is decreasing. According to the forecasts of Statistics Estonia, this decrease will continue until 2022, when the proportion will gradually start to increase again. This growth period will last until 2039, after which the proportion will decrease again.<sup>5</sup> Taking into account the changes in the state of young people by year<sup>6</sup> and the objectives Estonia has set<sup>7</sup>, negative trends like the rise in emigration of young people, high unemployment rate in the 15-19 age group, number of young people not in education, employment and training, high rate of relative poverty and problematic health behaviour (including risk behaviour among young men in particular) demand special attention. Attention to these trends means, in particular, attention to the underlying reasons, the prevention of possible consequences and reducing undesirable effects. It is necessary to ensure that the positive trends continue.

#### 2.2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE YOUTH FIELD

In recent years, increasingly many opportunities have been open to the youth field to support the comprehensive development of young people, address the causes of problems and offer solutions for when young people find

<sup>2</sup> Youth field, i.e. youth policy and youth work (see the definition of youth work in §4 of the Youth Work Act: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013106/consolide>)

<sup>3</sup> The youth age group is determined by §3 of the Youth Work Act, see <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013106/consolide>

<sup>4</sup> [www.noorteseire.ee/en](http://www.noorteseire.ee/en)

<sup>5</sup> Youth Monitoring Yearbook 2012, [www.noorteseire.ee/en](http://www.noorteseire.ee/en)

<sup>6</sup> Youth monitoring yearbooks have been published since 2009 to describe the state of young people. These yearbooks provide an overview of changes that have taken place in the lives of young people by year (see [www.noorteseire.ee/en](http://www.noorteseire.ee/en)). Research into the youth situation is also examined, with the most important surveys listed in the explanatory letter to the development plan.

<sup>7</sup> Primarily the objectives set out in the ‘Estonia 2020’ Competitiveness Strategy to reduce the youth and long-term unemployment rates as well as the proportions of young people (aged 18-24) with basic or lower level of education who do not continue with their studies, and of adults (aged 25-64) without special or vocational education; additionally, the objectives of other relevant development plans, an overview of links provided on page 13.



themselves in difficult situations. The number of structures created for young people has grown in youth work<sup>8</sup>, resulting in an expanded reach of youth work provision<sup>9</sup>. More support has been provided for improving work quality, and developing training and skills of youth workers. The contribution of local governments, as the main responsible authority for providing youth work, to the organisation and quality in the youth field has been noteworthy: 221 local governments (i.e. almost all of them) spend money on youth work<sup>10</sup>. In the years 2010 to 2013 a total of 63 local governments, where 64% of young people live in Estonia, conducted youth work quality assessment so as to develop youth work services.

The development of youth policies around the world has been dynamic in the last decade. The need for developing youth policy is underlined in a number of EU policy guidelines<sup>11</sup>, while several countries that set something of an example to Estonia have recently updated their youth policies<sup>12</sup>. In 2006 Estonia set the goal of developing coordinated and purposeful activities in different spheres of life based on the actual needs and challenges young people face – an integrated youth policy<sup>13</sup>. Although the complexity of developing and implementing integrated youth policy, originally based on the approach of the Council of Europe, is apparent across Europe<sup>14</sup>, Estonia has been recognised for the approach taken<sup>15</sup>.

### 2.3. DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

For the young person it is important to have the opportunity to grow up in a safe family environment and community, get a proper education, and find a job in the future that enables them to fulfil their potential and gives them a good quality of life. At the same time, both taking on a more creative attitude toward their own development and the development of society and reducing the risk of becoming passive consumers and failures is needed. Therefore, youth work should provide young people with opportunities to discover their talents and interests in a way that suits them most, act together, make mistakes, learning from them, and look for other options. The talents, interests and creativity of young people should be recognised and given the chance to develop. Youth associations, youth centres and hobby schools create a lot of opportunities for young people to develop the necessary social competencies. Young people in Estonia tend to discover their interests and creativity and learn in depth about things of interest through youth work. Initiative-based voluntary activities like self-run youth projects make a valuable contribution both to the development of a range of skills and knowledge<sup>16</sup>, and to one's work experience and experience with success.

**Compared to the current situation, youth field has a more significant capacity to influence the development and realisation of the potential of young people. In order to involve more young people and find new methods, professional capabilities and an appropriate resource base are necessary.**

<sup>8</sup> Youth work is mainly carried out in youth centres (227), hobby schools (527), youth associations, youth camps, youth work organisations and youth councils. Compared to 2006, the number of structures – particularly hobby schools, youth centres and youth councils – has grown steadily. The use of EU structural funds for developing youth field infrastructure was successful in the period 2007-2013, with 50 premises (mostly youth centres, but also hobby schools) having been renovated or constructed.

<sup>9</sup> See the Youth Monitoring Yearbook 2012, [www.noorteseire.ee/en](http://www.noorteseire.ee/en)

<sup>10</sup> M. Ainsaar, K. Soo: *Kohalikud omavalitsused ja lastega pered / Local governments and families with children*, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu, Ministry of Social Affairs 2012

<sup>11</sup> E.g. EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering, 2009; Council of the European Union Resolution on youth work, 2010; Council of the European Union Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field 2009

<sup>12</sup> E.g. Belgium (Flanders): *Flemish Youth Policy Plan 2011-2014*; Luxembourg: *Le Pacte pour La Jeunesse 2012-2014*; United Kingdom: *Positive for Youth 2011-2013*; Latvia: *Youth policy guidelines for years 2009-2018*; Finland: *Child and Youth Policy Programme 2012-2015*

<sup>13</sup> Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013

<sup>14</sup> See e.g. L. Siurala's 'History of European youth policies and questions for the future' in 'The history of youth work in Europe. Volume 3'.

<sup>15</sup> E.g. the report on Estonian youth policy drafted immediately after the approval of the national strategy document as part of the UNFPA project 'Counting on youth' (Yael Ohana, Ditta Dolejsiova & Christopher Grollman, 2007) nominates the description of Estonia's youth policy as one of the best in Europe. The most important positive conclusion drawn in the overview report published in 2013 entitled 'Youth and Public Policy of Estonia' (Simon Bart, Liisa Müürsepp, Ilona-Evelyn Rannala, Marti Taru & Maarja Toots, 2013) concerns the initiative of the state in shaping integrated youth policy.

<sup>16</sup> See e.g. an analysis of the impact assessment on participation in the youth projects of the Youth in Action programme [http://www.iugendinaktion.at/images/doku/roy\\_policybrief\\_121012.pdf](http://www.iugendinaktion.at/images/doku/roy_policybrief_121012.pdf).

Compared to other age groups, young people are far less able to make a difference in their own lives – their status, rights and authority in society are weaker<sup>17</sup>. Conditions of their lives are also different and sometimes unequal, depending, for the most part, on aspects over which they have no control (socioeconomic, geographic etc.). The specific status of young people is often overlooked in the provision of public services, with youth being seen as objects of services or expected to cope with problems and competition just as effectively as other target groups. Those from deprived backgrounds or those not coping particularly well with individual responsibilities are often left aside, leading to more profound social stratification and exclusion. For this reason, it is crucial to reduce the influence of poverty and other aspects of inequality on the development opportunities open to young people. There should be better prevention of risk behaviour of young people in society, and the impact of its consequences should be reduced.

**There is an opportunity for youth work practitioners and policy makers to deliver youth work provision and enhance its role to maximise the contribution it can make to reducing social exclusion and solving problems young people face.**

Becoming involved in arranging one's own life and the life of the community is what the life changes of young people and the development of a strong civil society at large are based on. Young people's sense of belonging and perception of being involved are determined by whether they have their say at home, at school and in the community, whether there is a feeling of togetherness among peers and whether by doing things together they accomplish something meaningful within the community. This helps prevent young people from becoming socially apathetic and civically uninvolved and from having the need or desire to express themselves in a radical way or leave the country.

**In order to increase participation, there is an increasing need in the youth field for finding new forms of participation, develop the habit of having a say and recognise learning experience gained through participation. The opinions of non-participants must also be found out and taken into account.**

Making educational choices, entering working life and independent living or starting a family are difficult transitions in young people's lives. Changes in modern society have led to uneven transitions and frequent shifts from security to insecurity when choosing studies and a place to live and work. Running into problems in the labour market at a young age often has a long-term negative effect. Support must be provided to overcome the problems that go with different stages of transition (education-work-education-work, family-independence-family, financial dependence-financial independence etc.). Skills in self-evaluation, the ability to take the initiative and the entrepreneurial approach to life also play an important role in the context of the future life and career decisions of young people.

**To increase competitiveness of young people when entering work and to contribute to their ability to cope in the labour market, there are possibilities that can be created in the youth field in line with an understanding based on building the capabilities of young people<sup>18</sup> depending on their chances of getting work experience, understanding the working life better, being supported in transitions, and of obtaining the skills and knowledge that help them find jobs and secure a safe position in the labour market.**

## II UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES, MEASURES AND INDICATORS FOR 2014-2020

### 1. UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

The development of measures was based on the current principles of Estonia's youth policy, in accordance with which every effort must be made to:

<sup>17</sup> Kasearu, K., Kutsar, D. and Trumm, A., 'On determinants of perceived social exclusion among young adults of middle-sized towns in Estonia, Germany and United Kingdom', in Leaman, J. and Warsching, M. (eds), *Youth in contemporary Europe*, Routledge, Abingdon, 2010

<sup>18</sup> I.e. increasing the individual ability of young people, including the ability required to make informed choices, and creating an environment of actual opportunities in social, educational and working life enable the achievement of a combined, long-term effect in youth employment. See also the European Policy Brief – Making capabilities work: Young Europeans' transitions from education to the labour market [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy-briefs-workable-07-2012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy-briefs-workable-07-2012_en.pdf) and [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy-briefs-workable-072012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy-briefs-workable-072012_en.pdf).

- consider the young person as a whole, i.e. in order to implement truly effective activities and measures to achieve any goals or resolve any issues related to young people, young people's lives and the factors that affect them must be examined as a whole, without framing that view within the area of administration of a single agency or policy domain;
- involve young people – inclusion is a tool to ensure the quality and impact of measures;
- achieve synergy, i.e. using a variety of policy domains and knowledge transfer to strive for the achievement of a greater combined effect.

There are the following underlying principles for the period 2014-2020 common to all measures:

- Youth as the target group is not homogenous. For this reason, the planning and implementation of activities and measures must be based on the actual circumstances and needs of particular young people and should take into account differences arising from gender, ethnicity, culture, health, place of residence, socioeconomic situation and the like.
- Through all of its measures, youth work supports the health of young people as well as values and attitudes that promote healthy lifestyles. This requires consistent development of the resources available for youth workers and of their competence and is rooted in a knowledge-based approach to target groups, training, resources and interventions.
- Youth field contributes to social cohesion, including the promotion of gender equality, the prevention of discrimination and the fostering of caring attitudes towards the surrounding environment;
- While planning and implementing youth policy and youth work measures it is important to help young people gain self-confidence and the ability to cope in important spheres of life such as education, career and family. Difficulties young people face should be detected as early as possible and they should be helped to get professional support where necessary.
- Youth field is part of an existing network of cooperation between policy areas that impact on the lives of young people. Systematic cooperation should be initiated and its efficacy supported if need be.

## 2. OVERALL GOAL

The overall goal of the development plan can be worded as follows:

**The young person has ample opportunities for self-development and self-realisation, which supports the formation of a cohesive and creative society.**

Indicators:

1. Proportion of young people (aged 18-24) with basic or lower level of education who do not continue in education
  - Reference level (2012): 10.5%
  - Target level (2020): 9.5%
2. Youth unemployment rate for the age group 15-24
  - Reference level (2012): 20.9%
  - Target level (2020): 10%

## 3. SUB-GOALS, MEASURES TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Youth field measures and activities are addressed to achieve the following sub-goals and target positions.

**SUB-GOAL 1: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MORE CHOICES IN TERMS OF DISCOVERING THEIR OWN CREATIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIAL**

- Indicator: involvement of young people in youth work (% of total number of young people)
- Reference level (2012): 42%
  - Target level (2020): 60%

## Measure 1: Increase opportunities for young people to develop their creativity, show initiative and act together

For the young person, it is important to have the opportunity to grow up in a safe and tolerant family environment and community, to get a good education and to find a job in the future that provides them the opportunity to realise their potential and offers a good quality of life. As such, opportunities need to be created for young people to discover their talents and interests, act together, initiate activities on their own and thus play an active role in the development of surrounding community and society as a whole.

The key activities that will be implemented as part of the measure are as follows:

- 1.1. smart youth work concept is developed;
- 1.2. better use is made of IT tools in working with young people, including offering ICT-related hobby activities so as to improve young people's digital literacy;
- 1.3. capacity in the youth field to create and develop optimal socialisation environments for different groups of young people is increased;
- 1.4. young people are supported to design and drive youth-led initiatives and projects;
- 1.5. youth work in schools is enhanced;
- 1.6. greater recognition of the value of skills and knowledge gained through non-formal learning is ensured in formal education and in the labour market, and the use of youth work tools and training resources are supported in formal education;
- 1.7. young people's interests are increasingly taken into account in hobby education, primarily through their participation in decision-making;
- 1.8. diversity of methodologies is developed and applied in hobby education as well as cooperation with other parties in the youth field.

### SUB-GOAL 2: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AT A LOWER RISK OF EXCLUSION

Indicator: regional availability of youth work provision

- Reference level (2012): one hobby school for every 596 young people; one youth centre for every 1384 young people
- Target level (2020): one hobby school for every 400 young people; one youth centre for every 1000 young people

## Measure 2: Increase the inclusion of young people and improve their employability

The opportunities available to young people in Estonia for their comprehensive development and for acting together are not equal. Consistent attention should be paid to the obstacles young people face and the capacity of youth sector to remove these obstacles used to larger extent. In order to prevent problems developing among young people in the labour market and to contribute to their ability to successfully cope with them, different opportunities can be created through the youth field in line with an understanding based on boosting the capabilities of young people for them to gain work experience, be supported in transitions, start their working lives safe, better understand the world of work and obtain the skills and knowledge that make them employable and help them have a more secure position in the labour market.

The key activities that will be implemented as part of the measure are as follows:

- 2.1. availability of free-of-charge youth work services is increased;
- 2.2. competence and methodology in youth work (including hobby education) are further developed, so as to involve more young people with diverse backgrounds;
- 2.3. greater consideration is given to youth work services in arranging local transport;
- 2.4. opportunities are created for youth workers to access guidance services and other professional support if necessary;
- 2.5. awareness of the needs of disadvantaged young people and of the obstacles young people face in resolving problems in their working lives are increased by working with the parties involved in youth

research and youth policy, and this knowledge is taken into account in the planning of measures in different policy domains;

- 2.6. young people's employability is supported by providing them with opportunities to obtain work experience (including voluntary work) and better understand the world of work, paying particular attention to risk groups;
- 2.7. ability of young people to build a labour market by themselves is enhanced by supporting their initiative and implementing more effectively a variety of youth work provision for entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial spirit to be recognised, and this, among other things, in cooperation with businesses;
- 2.8. measures are launched for young people not in education, employment or training by means of youth work institutions and organisations to support their return to education and/or their entry to the labour market.

### SUB-GOAL 3: GREATER SUPPORT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING

Indicator: number of opportunities for organised participation (youth councils and other participation structures)

- Reference level (2012): 85
- Target level (2020): 200

### Measure 3: Support for the active participation of young people in the community life and decision-making

Aspirations and opportunities of young people to participate in decision-making processes on matters that concern them and society as a whole are the basis for the development of a cohesive society in Estonia. Participation in arranging your own life and the life of the surrounding community as well as in voluntary activities forms a basis for the development of a strong civil society – one in which young people are the active actors driving social change. Such participation largely determines people's sense of belonging and perception of being involved, which helps prevent them from falling into social apathy and from seeking to express themselves in a radical way or leave the country.

The key activities that will be implemented as part of the measure are as follows:

- 3.1. sustainable development of traditional forms of participation (primarily such as youth councils and associations) is supported;
- 3.2. system that ensures annual budgetary support for youth associations and councils is further developed;
- 3.3. increase in the membership of youth associations is supported by improving youth leaders' competence for inclusion;
- 3.4. new forms of youth participation are developed and supported so as to devise a great many methods used in youth work institutions and organisations that support participation and the ones for learning to participate, focusing, among other things, on developing youth leaders', youth workers' and civil servants' competence;
- 3.5. awareness of young people as a basis for quality participation is raised by supporting the national youth information system and enabling it to operate effectively in cooperation with various parties.

### SUB-GOAL 4: THE YOUTH FIELD OPERATES MORE EFFICIENTLY

Indicators:

1. Satisfaction of young people with youth work
  - Reference level (2013): unknown
  - Target level (2020): 85% satisfaction rate of participants
2. Proportion of youth workers taking part in training per year
  - Reference level (2012): 10%
  - Target level (2020): 15%

### Measure 4: Ensure the development of high-quality youth policy and youth work

Development of the youth field as the sphere of life most multilaterally related to young people is important in order to meet the objectives set by the state. Implementation of a deliberate integrated youth policy guarantees appropriate cross-sectorial cooperation and the effectiveness of measures. Systematic development of both youth work and a sustainable infrastructure for youth work helps better achieve the goals of youth, education, labour and social policies.

The key activities that will be implemented as part of the measure are as follows:

- 4.1. use of youth research evidence and monitoring results in policy making is increased;
- 4.2. permanent cooperation between civil servants, practitioners and researchers is supported;
- 4.3. opportunities are created for acquiring new knowledge about non-formal learning and its outcomes in the youth field;
- 4.4. effort of local governments to provide high-quality youth work infrastructure and services is supported, including through the development of youth work quality assessment;
- 4.5. cooperation between local governments and their common development by youth work services and/or regions are promoted;
- 4.6. international cooperation opportunities are increased and greater use made of the results thereof;
- 4.7. emphasis in society is placed on the impact of youth policy and youth work and a greater awareness thereof is encouraged among various parties (including parents);
- 4.8. professionalism of youth workers is increased, among other things by assuring and improving the quality of tertiary education and training provision and monitoring the competence;
- 4.9. measures are devised and implemented for systematic cross-sectorial and inter-agency communication and collaboration.

### III MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND FINANCING OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES AND CONSIDERATION OF HORIZONTAL TOPICS

#### 1. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The youth field development plan is to be implemented in accordance with Government of the Republic Regulation No 302 of 13 December 2005 "Types of strategic development plans and the procedure for drafting, amending, implementing, evaluating and reporting thereof".

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for the implementation of the development plan. The Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Culture are also involved in its implementation together with other parties – youth work institutions and organisations and local and county governments in the first place, in accordance with their areas of responsibility in the implementation plan of the development plan. Estonian Youth Work Centre and Estonian National Agency for Erasmus+ (Foundation Archimedes) play an important role in implementing the development plan in the administrative field of the Ministry of Education and Research.

The implementation plan sets the basis for implementing the development plan, identifying activities, timeframes, responsible parties and resources required to enable its completion. The first draft of the implementation plan for 2014-2017 is submitted by the Minister of Education and Research to the Government of the Republic for its approval within three months from the development plan being approved, and each year thereafter in accordance with requirements.

#### 2. MONITORING, REPORTING AND UPDATING

Each year, the Ministry of Education and Research submits to the Government of the Republic an overview on the completion of the development plan, as measured by the achievement of goals set out in the development plan and implementation plan and the results of the measures, proposing to update and amend the development plan if need be.

Assessment of the results of the implementation of the development plan is primarily based on the evaluation of the indicators of goal achievement adopted in the development plan and of the outcomes of implementing the plan.

Reporting on the implementation of the development plan takes place via annual implementation plan reports, which are submitted to the Government of the Republic for approval. These reports serve a basis for deciding on updating or terminating the development plan of the field.

### 3. FINANCING

Forecast costs of development plan by year and measure

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018-2020	2014-2020
Measure 1: Increase opportunities for young people to develop their creativity, show initiative and act	7 290 794	5 747 411	5 843 362	6 395 429	22 142 189	47 419 185
including external funds (2007-2013 ERDF)	1 729 050	196 394				
(Erasmus+)	2 554 009	2 602 458	2 823 444	3 292 258	12 832 676	
Measure 2: Increase the inclusion of young people and improve their employability	4 345 540	3531 151	5 115423	4780 187	11 293 426	29 065 727
including external funds (Norwegian/EEA)	2 725 364	771 931	740 732			
(2014-2020 ESF)	410 967	1 710 475	3 063 850	3 452 656	7 767 902	
Measure 3: Support for the active participation of young people in the community life and decision-making	1 498 741	1 066 741	1 066 741	1 066 741	3 200 223	7 899 187
Measure 4: Ensure the development of high-quality youth policy and youth work	1 380 022	776 267	775 893	775 193	2 325 579	6 032 954
including external funds (2007-2013 ESF)	605 814					
TOTAL	14 515 097	11 121 570	12 801 419	13 017 550	38 961 417	90 417 053
SBS 2014-2017						
External funds total	8 025 204	5 281 258	6 628 026	6 744 914	20 600 578	47 279 980
Incl. EU 2007-2013						2 531 258
Erasmus+						24 104 845
EU 2014-2020						16 405 850
Norwegian/EEA						4 238 027

The financial plan rests upon the following:

- the 2014 budget, submitted by the Ministry of Finance to the Parliament of Estonia for approval;
- 2015-2017 – the amounts set in the State Budget Strategy 2014-2017, to which the 2014+ resources, including co-financing, are added;
- the forecast funding for youth activities under Erasmus+ for the period 2014-2020; and
- 2018-2020 – the 2017 level is applied.

#### 4. LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

In order for the youth field to be as effective as it can be, its successful cooperation with other spheres of life is important. Understanding the need for a comprehensive approach to the lives of young people, it is necessary to capture a combined effect of measures taken in different policy domains. At the level of strategic planning, the youth field development plan contributes to the objectives of the 'Estonia 2020' Competitiveness Strategy. Implementation of the development plan also contributes to achieving the goals of the plans outlined below.

- One of the objectives of the national strategy "**Sustainable Estonia 21**" is a cohesive society through social inclusion, regional balance and a strong civil society. The overall goal of the youth field development plan – that young people have many opportunities for development and self-realisation, which supports the formation of a cohesive and creative society – supports the achievement of this objective of the sustainable development strategy.
- The "**Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2014-2020**", which is currently being developed, sets itself the goal of establishing learning opportunities that meet the needs and match the abilities of people in Estonia throughout their lives. One of the underlying principles and goals of the youth field development plan is to support young people's success in education. Cooperation between youth work and schools plays a key role in this, primarily through the adoption of new approaches to learning, lifelong learning and opportunities for self-realisation, and the growth in participation in education, which all leave young people better prepared to make the transition from education to employment.
- The measures of the youth field development plan increase the opportunities available to young people living in geographically unequal circumstances to access high-quality youth work. In this way the plan supports the objective of the "**Estonian Regional Development Strategy 2020**" to foster balanced development throughout the country. The activities of the development plan support the ability of local governments to provide high-quality youth work, which in turn supports the implementation of subsidiarity principles in regional development. The measures of the development plan will promote the involvement of young people in arranging their own lives and the life of the community, which forms a basis for the development of a strong civil society – which is itself a prerequisite for development at local level.
- The objective of the "**Children and Families Development Plan 2012-2020**" is to improve the well-being and quality of life of children and families, making it a key prerequisite to achieving the results of the youth field development plan. The development of children and young people, and the best possible level of involvement and inclusion is achieved through the combined two-sided effect of both development plans – in the youth field primarily through non-formal learning and in child and family policies through support for children's rights and families' ability to cope.
- The youth field development plan as a whole contributes to the objectives of the "**Public Health Development Plan 2009-2020**", particularly given its underlying principle. Youth work, through all of its measures, supports the health of young people as well as values and attitudes that promote healthy lifestyles.
- One of the stated aims of the "**Estonian Entrepreneurship Growth Strategy 2014-2020**" is to instil the sense of entrepreneurial spirit among youth and other target groups, which is connected to the youth field development plan's goal of supporting creative, enterprising and initiative-taking attitudes to life.
- The activities of the youth field development plan also contribute to the objectives of "**Integrating Estonia 2020**" (currently under development), offering all young people opportunities to participate and have their say. Youth work institutions and organisations can help new immigrants become accustomed to their new lives by supporting the socialisation of young people.
- The primary contribution to the civic education and inclusion objectives of the "**Civil Society Development Plan 2011-2014**" is through the support for the activities of youth participation councils and youth associations.
- As part of the "**Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**", which is currently being drafted, implementation of the LEADER measure will continue in the coming period. Among other things, this will see support for a variety of projects aimed at young people in rural areas. In addition to this, the development plan will contribute to making it easier for young people to become agricultural producers, thus resulting in generational change in farming and sustainable age structure of agricultural producers equipped with the latest knowledge and experience. A number of measures in the youth field development plan help enrich young people and local communities and the self-realisation opportunities available therein.



- The development plan makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the main objective of the "Fundamentals of Cultural Policy until 2020" and to a number of priorities in the fields of cultural policy, first and foremost through high-quality hobby education provision.

## 5. HORIZONTAL TOPICS CONSIDERED

### Environmental protection and the climate

Considering the surrounding environment important is highlighted among the underlying principles of the development plan, while the description of measures refers to the goal of developing a considerate sense of civic duty in regard to the community and society as a whole, including environment. As such, implementation of the development plan enables support for the shaping of positive attitudes among young people towards environmental protection.

### Equal opportunities

Taking gender differences into account is an underlying principle of the development plan, while reducing inequality and exclusion among young people is one of its five main focal points, as a result of which implementation of the plan supports the development of equal opportunities in a significant way.

### Information society

Activity 1 of Measure 1 is directed towards the adoption of IT tools in the youth field, with information itself highlighted as a key prerequisite for ensuring involvement (Activity 5 of Measure 3). Implementation of the development plan therefore contributes to the development of the information society.

### Regional development

The development plan supports regional development and takes into account to a significant extent the differences between regions in the planning of measures. The plan's links with regional development are described at the beginning of this chapter and in Point 2.3 of Chapter 'Starting points'. Also, Activities 1-3 of Measure 2 and its indicator directly touch on regional access to youth work services.

### State governance

The development plan provides a significant support for shaping inclusive and active citizens, for which Measure 3 is intended. Moreover, a principle of the youth field as a whole is the involvement of young people in decision-making (see Point 1 of Chapter II).





