

Youth programme 2014-21

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 ESTONIA

Timeline



ID number 28170

Background

Youth programme supported the implementation of the Youth field development plan 2014-20, which outlined the strategic objectives for young people and youth work.

Objectives

The overall goal of the plan was to establish a coherent and creative society by providing young people with ample opportunities for self-development and self-realisation. For this, youth policies must be more efficient and young people must have more choices to discover their own creative and developmental potential. They must have a lower risk of exclusion and they must be able to participate in decision-making.

Description

In the Youth programme, measures and activities to achieve the overall goal of providing young people with ample opportunities for self-development and self-realisation are stipulated. For example, the programme offers services to (re)integrate young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) into education, and to improve their employability. For this, youth workers locate NEETs (for example, through networking), motivate them, and provide them with individualised support.

Since 2015, over 10 000 young people have benefited from this service.

EUR 3.1 million has been allocated from the EU (ESIF) and the State budget for 2015-18 to put this measure into effect.

To provide young people with competences and experiences that increase their competitiveness in the labour market and help them make good and informed decisions about their future, the following actions (not necessarily related to training) have been provided:

- (a) youth summer camps prepare young people for the labour market by giving them the

- opportunity to gain practical work experience during the summer. In addition to earning a small salary, young people become familiar with different types of work, receive career guidance and acquaint themselves with labour market legislation;
- (b) community practice provides secondary school students with the opportunity to carry out community practice at a local NGO. This enables young people to gain experiences that will enhance their employability and increase their active participation in society;
 - (c) mobile workshops aim to introduce young people to professions, work practices and tools in the fields of carpentry and metalwork by offering them a hands-on opportunity to test the work tasks associated with these professions. For this, a trailer equipped with appropriate tools is driven around Estonia, stopping at youth centres, hobby schools and youth camps, and carries out workshops for interested young people. In addition, young people are introduced to the medical field (nursing and bio-analytics) through a virtual reality workshop, which is followed by a practical workshop where young people can practice the work tasks, they saw through virtual reality device.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the youth policy actions were introduced through virtual reality and augmented reality workshops. The chosen topics matched the trends observed in the report on the health care sector by the labour market needs monitoring and skills forecasting system OSKA. The aim of the workshops was to raise young people's career awareness (including opportunities offered by VET) by giving them practical hands-on experience with various professions and to increase their early contact with the world of work. The workshops were organised in different youth centres, fairs and camps all over Estonia.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the activities to (re)integrate young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) into education and to improve their employability continued. The summer work programme offered young people the opportunity to gain their first work experience and to get acquainted with different fields of work and labour legislation. A project run by professional laboratories, that aimed at introducing young people to different occupations, supporting their adaptation to working life and reducing the risk of exclusion through virtual workshops, focused on occupations in the health sector.

The constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic set limits, mainly to international activities, but most activities were carried out in a virtual format. In 2020, despite all this, young people's satisfaction with youth work increased.

Activities to support young people through the crisis were added, and the situation encouraged innovation and the introduction of smart solutions - especially smart youth work.

2021 Completed

In 2021, the activities to (re)integrate young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) into education and to improve their employability continued. The number of NEETs has increased over the last 2 years, but they have become more complicated to access due to COVID constraints. Young people's access to online services has become more difficult due to the deteriorating economic situation, limiting the options of smart youth work. However, individual counselling and activation activities were used to support the return of more than 1 700 young people to education or the labour market.

As part of the professional laboratories' programme, practical virtual workshops were organised, where more than 7 000 young people became acquainted with occupations in the wood and furniture sector, medicine and youth work.

For progress on youth guarantee as of 2022, see related policy developments.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research
- Estonian Youth Work Centre
- Education and Youth Board

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Youth field development plan 2014-20](#)

[Youth programme 2018-21 \(in Estonian\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 **Design**

Supporting vulnerable target groups

The following measures are foreseen:

 ESTONIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Youth programme 2014-21: Estonia. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28170>