

Empowering Young People

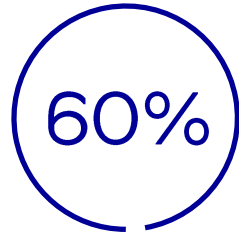
An overview of Estonia's youth sector

education
estonia

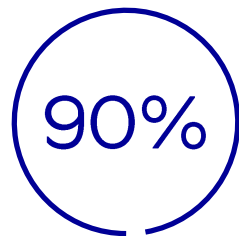


Snapshot of Estonian young people

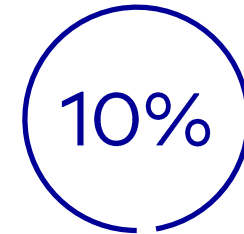
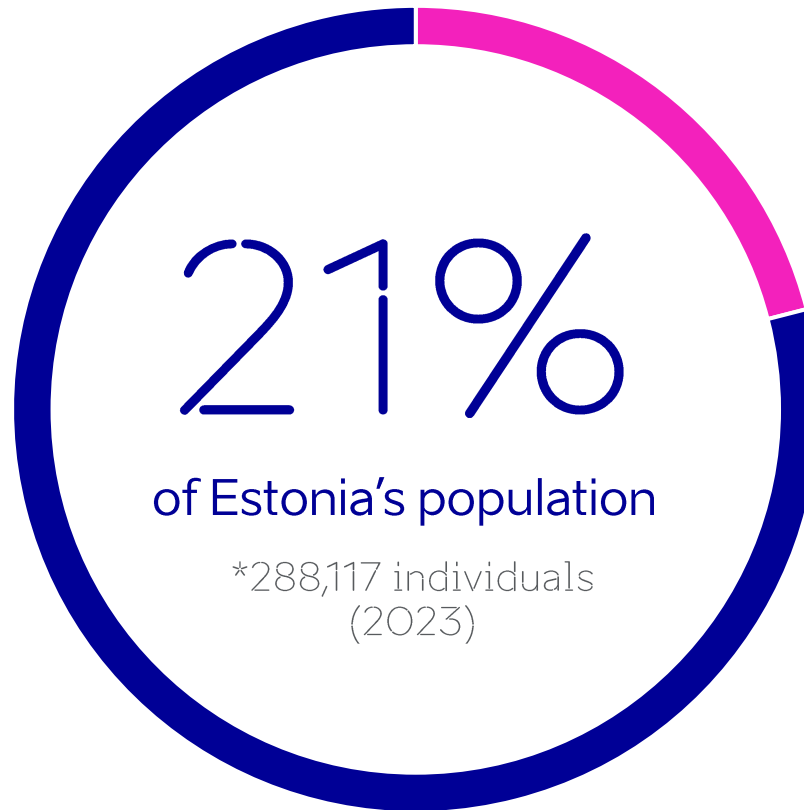
The age range for youth in Estonia is defined as 7 to 26 years



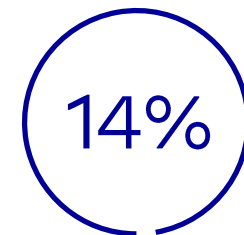
engaged in
youth work



satisfied with
youth work



NEET
youth



youth
unemployment

Youth sector in Estonia. Main elements

- + Young people have a say in decisions that affect them: VOTING RIGHTS START AT AGE 16 in local elections.
- + The rights of STUDENT and YOUTH COUNCILS are enshrined in law.
- + HOBBY EDUCATION has its own curricula, providing broad self-development options in areas like music, arts, sports and technology.
- + With three Bachelor's and one Master's programmes, Estonia prioritises PROFESSIONAL YOUTH WORK EDUCATION.
- + State-coordinated but youth-driven YOUTH INFORMATION PORTAL gathers crucial information on education, career, relationships, health, etc, and is widely used.
- + DIVERSE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: From tackling NEET challenges to special programmes for talented young people.
- + QUALITY OF YOUTH WORK is supported by a quality assessment model actively used by local governments.
- + Estonia's youth sector's future is directed by STRATEGY 2035, developed in collaboration with all stakeholders.

80%

of the 7-19 year-olds participate
in hobby schools or hobby activities



Formats & structures for youth sector activities

Hobby activities

Many engage in hobbies in schools, youth centres, and youth associations.

Hobby education

Over 800 hobby schools. 53% of 7-16 year-olds and 10% of 17-26 year-olds attend

Open youth centres

281 open youth centres all over Estonia provide safe space for youth and 28% of Estonian youth attend.

Youth camps

11% of Estonian young people participate

Work camps

Multiple organisers, thousands of participants

Youth projects

Youth meetings, youth initiatives, Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps participants

Youth associations

16% of all Estonian young people belong to youth associations and organisations

Support for NEET young people

Youth work services in local municipalities

Youth participation

County and local youth councils, action groups, and student councils

What we stand for

Core principles of Estonia's youth sector

- + Recognising the unique needs of young people
- + Understanding and informing about youth issues
- + Upholding youth autonomy and rights
- + Treating young people as equal partners
- + Promoting active and meaningful youth inclusion
- + Fostering youth development and self-realisation
- + Valuing every individual young people



Challenges & future tasks

Challenges:

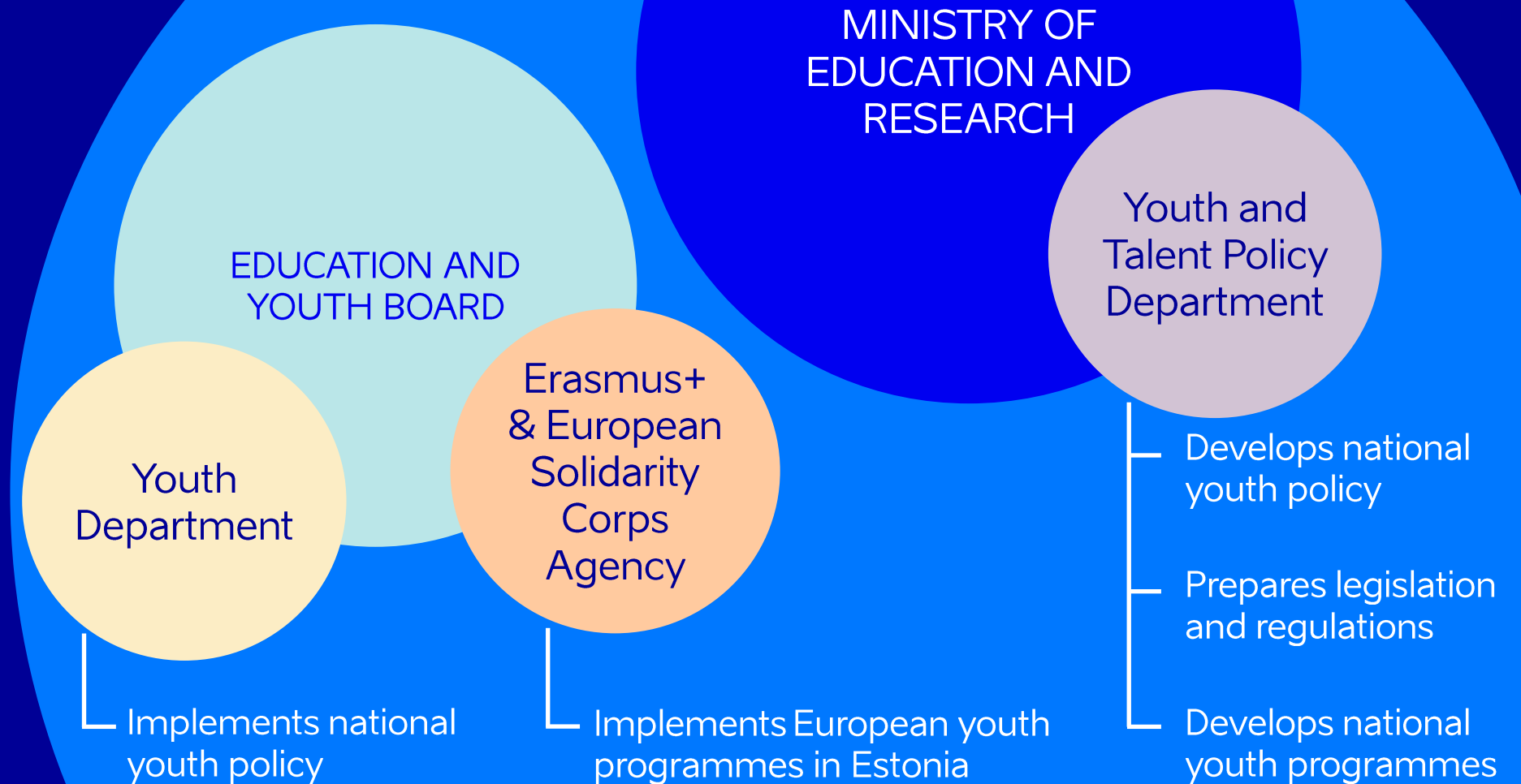
- + Declining youth population due to ageing society
- + Inaccessibility of services for young people in rural areas
- + Lack of qualified staff due to low salary
- + No formal training available for hobby education instructors

Next steps:

- + Introducing mandatory qualification requirements for youth sector workers
- + Integration of non-formal and formal education



Coordinating youth activities



Monitoring & analysis



DATA GOVERNANCE

Data management and data literacy

- + Data availability
- + Awareness and literacy
- + Clear, reusable data
- + Systematic and coordinated data collection



QUALITY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Continuous monitoring of youth services

- + Quality & impact description
- + Results documentation
- + Assessment and analysis tools
- + Monitoring trends



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research & innovation of youth services

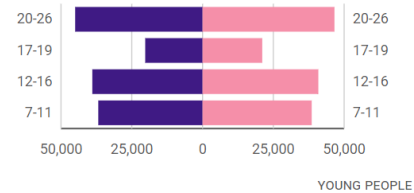
- + Original research
- + Research-based application
- + Data-driven innovation & new data sources
- + Development of higher education and research

Youth data

How Estonia keeps track

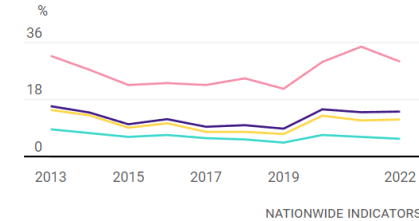
Number of young people

Young people by age group and sex | Whole country, 2023



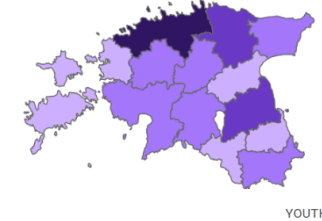
Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate by age group and sex | Males and females, 2013–2022



Number of youth centres

Number of open youth centres | 2021



- + Youth Monitoring is a central system for youth data, managed by the Ministry and Education and Youth Board
- + Co-operation with universities for research and improvements in youth work
- + The Youth Monitoring Dashboard and periodic reports provide a detailed view of youth demographics and activities.

Shaping the future

Strategic aims of the Youth Sector Strategy 2021–2035

+ MOMENTUM

Empowering youth as the creative force in society, focusing on education, culture, and economy.

+ RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION

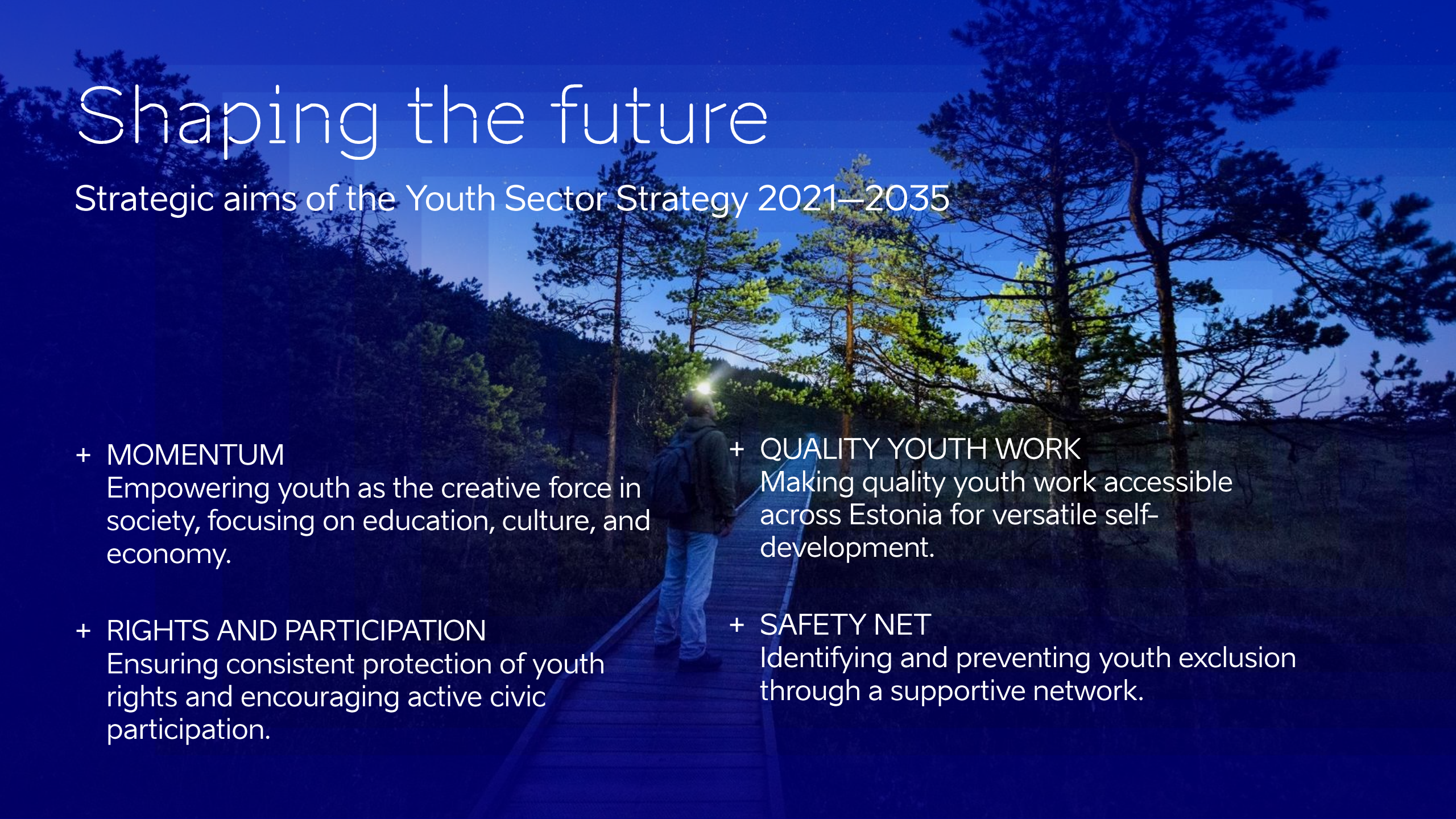
Ensuring consistent protection of youth rights and encouraging active civic participation.

+ QUALITY YOUTH WORK

Making quality youth work accessible across Estonia for versatile self-development.

+ SAFETY NET

Identifying and preventing youth exclusion through a supportive network.



Our goal is to build Estonia that young people want to live in and lead

Metric: Increase young people's trust in state

- + In 2016, 53% of young Estonians expressed trust in the parliament.
- + Our 2035 aim is 70%
- + Estimated cost over 15 years: €356 million



70%

Aitäh!

education
estonia



Photos: Lina Notta, Küllike Heide,
Hans Markus Arntson, Sven Zacek, Renee Altroy, Aron Urb