

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

YOUTH WORK ACT

235/1995 (Amendments up to 663/2002)

Adopted in Helsinki on the 24th of February 1995

Chapter 1 General provisions

Section 1 – *Purpose of the Act*

The purpose of this act is to improve young people's living conditions and to create favourable conditions for young people's civic activities.

In addition, the purpose is to promote equality between generations, genders and Finnish regions, tolerance and cultural diversity and to ensure sustainable exploitation of nature.

Section 2 – *Definitions*

For the purposes of this act,

- 1) *youth work* means measures for improving young people's living conditions and creating conditions for young people's civic activities; and
- 2) *youth activities* means young people's activities which promote their personal growth and citizenship skills.

Section 3 – *Steering and development* (Amendment 27/1997)

The general administration and development of youth work shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

In the provinces, the promotion of youth activities and the development of young people's living conditions shall be the responsibility of the provincial state offices.

Section 4 – *Implementation of youth work and youth activities*

Youth work shall primarily be the responsibility of the government, local authorities and youth organisations. The municipal sphere of activity shall include youth work.

Youth activities shall be primarily implemented by young people and their communities and youth organisations.

Section 5 – *Duties and cooperation in youth work*

The Prime Minister's Office and the ministries shall include development measures needed to improve young people's living conditions in their action and financial plans and in the national programmes devised under the Regional Development Act (1135/93). These

measures shall be coordinated by the Ministry of Education on the national level, by provincial state offices on the regional level and by local authorities on the local level.

Section 6 – *Advisory council for youth affairs*

The Ministry of Education shall be assisted in matters which fall within the scope of this Act by an advisory council for youth affairs to be appointed by the Government. The advisory council may appoint subcommittees. The advisory council shall

- 1) discuss and issue statements on matters relating to youth work in the action and financial plans of the ministries; and
- 2) put forward proposals for programmes and measures.

The Advisory Council shall represent expertise on young people's personal growth and civic activities, young people's living conditions, internationalisation, the prevention of exclusion, and youth research. The majority of members shall be persons nominated by youth organisations.

Chapter 2 State funding

Section 7 – *Statutory state grants* (Amendment 1165/1998)

Local authorities shall receive statutory state grants towards the operational costs of youth work in accordance with the Financing of Education and Culture Act (635/1998). The state grant shall be used for activities referred to in Section 2 of the Act. (645/1998)

The granting authority shall have the right to receive an account from the local authority concerning the use of the statutory state grant, when necessary.

Section 8 – *State subsidies* (Amendment 663/2002)

An annual appropriation may be included in the state budget to be allocated as subsidies to national youth organisations on the basis of performance. In the assessment of realised and planned activities, the common performance criteria shall be the quality, extent and cost-effectiveness of the activities. The performance of each organisation shall be assessed in relation to the implementation of its operational policy. Other factors influencing the granting of general subsidies shall be the topicality and social significance of the applicant's activities or measures and studies and surveys pertaining to young people acquired by the Ministry of Education. More detailed provisions concerning the performance criteria may be enacted by a Government Decree.

The decisions on the annual subsidies shall be made by the Ministry of Education.

Allowable expenditure in the granting of subsidies shall not include costs due to

brokerage, income acquisition and business operations or costs covered by profits from the sale of goods or services to another organisation referred to in this Section.

Subsidies shall not be granted under this Act to organisations whose operations or subsidies come under provisions enacted elsewhere or whose state subsidies are paid from a separate appropriation earmarked for the purpose in the state budget.

The Ministry of Education shall approve the organisations entitled to subsidies under this Act. In considering the application of an organisation, the Ministry shall also take account of the youth activities provided by it, its sphere of operations and its membership.

Exceptions may be made to the performance criteria determined in this Section in the case of an organisation operating among a linguistic or other minority or an organisation which can be considered to be nationally representative. Further provisions pertaining to the approval procedure may be enacted by a Government Decree.

Section 8 a – *Committee*
(Amendment 663/2002)

The proposal to the Ministry of Education concerning the state subsidies referred to in Section 8 shall be made by a committee appointed for the purpose. The appointment and mandate of the committee shall be enacted by a Government Decree.

Section 9 – *National youth centres*
(Amendment 663/2002)

An appropriation may be included in the state budget for subsidising the construction and operation of national youth centres.

Operational subsidies shall be primarily allocated to a youth centre on the basis of its use for youth purposes and its operational policy. However, subsidies may be granted on the basis of estimates to centres initiating their operations.

The centres to be subsidised under this Act shall be approved by the Ministry of Education. The centres must work on a not-for-profit basis and eventual surplus must be used for the development of the centre and the services it provides.

Further provisions concerning the criteria to be used in the granting of subsidies shall be enacted by decree.

Section 10 – *Other state aid*

An annual appropriation may be included in the state budget for youth research, international cooperation, the dissemination of information, the Young Art event and other initiatives geared to improve young people's living conditions.

Chapter 3 Miscellaneous provisions

Section 11 – Granting authority

The authority to grant the state subsidies under this Act shall be the Ministry of Education.

Section 12 – Financing of statutory state grants and subsidies

The state grants and subsidies allocated under this Act shall primarily be paid from the proceeds of national pools, lotto and lottery.

Section 12 a – Reference provision (Amendment 663/2002)

The state subsidy referred to in Sections 8, 9 and 10 above shall otherwise come under the provisions of the State Subsidies Act (688/2001)

Section 13 – Further provisions

Further provisions on the implementation of this Act shall be issued by decree.

Chapter 4 Coming into force and transitional provisions

Section 14 – Coming into force

This Act shall come into force on the 1st of March 1995.

This Act shall repeal the Youth Work Act of the 20th December 1985 (1068/85) and subsequent amendments thereto.

Measures required to implement this act can be taken before its coming into force.

Section 15 – Transitional provisions

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, local authorities shall receive the statutory state grants towards rent values for 1995 and 1996 as determined in Section 27 of the repealed Act. The statutory state grant for 1996 shall be based on the percentage used in 1995.
(1461/1995)

The National Youth Council shall continue its work until the advisory council for youth affairs has been appointed.