

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

211/2017 Government Decree on youth work and policy

This Decree is issued pursuant to the Youth Act (1285/2016):

Section 1

The role of regional state administrative agencies in the execution of youth work and policy

Regional state administrative agencies are responsible for:

- 1) executing and developing the national youth work and policy in the local context;
- 2) granting state aid and assessing the impact of the aid granted;
- 3) issuing informative guidelines for the field of activity involved;
- 4) gathering information on youth work and policy;
- 5) assessing the adequacy, quality and accessibility of the services intended for young people;
- 6) engaging in international cooperation;
- 7) carrying out any other duties assigned by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The youth activities of regional state administrative agencies are overseen by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 2

National youth work and youth policy programme

The national youth work and policy programme:

- 1) coordinates the objectives and measures determined by the key ministries in promoting young people's growth and living conditions and designed to contribute the attainment of the objectives defined in section 2 of the Youth Act (1285/2016) during the programme period;
- 2) sets out the guidelines for supporting youth work and related activities, including the key criteria for eligibility for state aid by national youth work centres of expertise pursuant to section 19 of the Youth Act; and
- 3) establishes the national objectives for youth activities in the European and international context.

In all aspects of the preparation of the programme, due consideration shall be given to:

- 1) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Finland's other international obligations related to the scope of application of the Youth Act;
- 2) the youth policy objectives established by the European Union and Council of Europe; and
- 3) the diversity of youth and the various minorities among young people.

Section 3

State Youth Council

When assessing the impact of the measures taken by government, the State Youth Council shall take into account the budget appropriations allocated for promoting the growth and living conditions of young people. The State Youth Council shall, once during each government term, prepare an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the national youth work and youth policy programme and make proposals for changes as appropriate.

The Council shall have a chair, two deputy chairs and additionally a maximum of 15 members. The members of the Council are appointed by the Government following consultations with parties engaged in youth

activities. The Council members shall possess expertise in youth work, youth policy and youth activities. Additionally, all the political parties in Parliament shall be represented in the Council.

The Council shall be appointed for a period of time consistent with the parliamentary term within six months of the commencement of the parliamentary term for a term of office ending on the appointment of a new Council. When a member of the Council wishes to resign mid-term, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall appoint a replacement for the rest of the term.

A quorum is present at the Council meetings when the chair and at least half of the members are in attendance. Decisions on the appointment and composition of any committees are made by the Council at its discretion. The representatives appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture and permanent experts have the right to attend and address the meetings.

The Council shall have a general secretary as well as other staff members if deemed necessary. Clerical services for the Council are provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will appoint any Council staff for the entire term of office of the Council.

The meeting fees and compensation payable to the chair, deputy chair, members and experts of the Council shall be determined by the ministry.

Section 4

Assessment and State Aid Commission

When addressing state aid issues, the Assessment and State Aid Commission shall give its informed view on the fulfilment of the criteria set out in the Youth Act.

The Assessment and State Aid Commission shall have a chair, deputy chair and additionally a maximum of seven members. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Government following consultations with parties engaged in youth activities. The Commission members shall be familiar with the operations of national youth work organisations and possess expertise in youth work, youth policy and youth activities.

The Commission shall be appointed for a period of time consistent with the parliamentary term within six months of the commencement of the parliamentary term for a term of office ending on the appointment of a new Commission. When a member of the Commission wishes to resign mid-term, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall appoint a replacement for the rest of the term.

A quorum is present at the Commission meetings when the chair and at least half of the members are in attendance. The representatives appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture and permanent experts shall have the right to attend and address Commission meetings.

The Commission shall have a general secretary as well as other staff members if deemed necessary. Clerical services for the Commission are provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will appoint any Commission staff for the entire term of office of the Commission.

The meeting fees and compensation payable to the chair, deputy chair, members and experts of the Commission shall be determined by the ministry.

Section 5

Procedure for determining the eligibility of national youth work organisations for state aid

An organisation seeking the status of a national youth work organisation shall apply for eligibility for state aid in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for state aid set out in section 17 of the Youth Act. The determination is based on the organisation's planned and actual activities. The Assessment and State Aid Commission shall issue an opinion in the matter.

When the quality of the organisation's activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the regularity and permanency of its activities as well as the management of its finances and administration. When the scope of activities is assessed, due consideration is given to access to the activities by the members of the target group defined by the organisation. When the social impact of activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the role played by the activities in youth work and policy and in the field of activity in which the organisation is engaged. When the nationwide coverage of activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the regional coverage of the activities. Activities are deemed to be nationwide if they cover a minimum of three counties.

An organisation may be found to be eligible for state aid if:

- 1) young people account for a minimum of two-thirds of the total number of members or the combined number of the individual members of district or local associations (youth organisation);
- 2) at least part of the activities consist of activities in which young people engage in voluntarily on their own terms and in respect of which the young people exercise independent decision-making and budgetary powers (organisation promoting youth work);
- 3) at least part of the activities consist of youth work and this part of the activities can be distinguished from other activities (organisation engaged in youth work);
- 4) its primary function is to offer services for youth work organisations, municipalities or other youth work entities (youth work services organisation).

An exception may be made to the approval criteria stipulated in the foregoing subsection 3 or the definition of nationwide coverage in respect of a linguistic or other minority or an organisation deemed to be nationally representative provided that the organisation's activities are sufficiently extensive in respect of the target group defined by it.

Section 6

Granting of state aid to a national youth work organisation

When granting state aid to a national youth work organisation, the Ministry of Education and Culture evaluates the planned and actual activities of the organisation. The Assessment and State Aid Commission shall issue a proposal in the matter.

When the quality of the organisation's activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the goal orientation, development and self-assessment of the activities and the attainment of the established objectives. When the scope of activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the extent and diversity of the activities, the number of young people involved in the activities as well as the nationwide coverage and accessibility of the activities. When the social impact of activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the role played by the activities in youth work and policy and in the field of activity in which the organisation is engaged.

When the financial management of the organisation is assessed, due consideration is given to the cost and quality of the activities relative to nationwide coverage as well as the amount of administrative and staff costs as a percentage of total costs.

When the organisation's contribution to the promotion of social inclusion is assessed, due consideration is given to the extent to which the organisation offers young people opportunities for taking part in its decision-making and other ways in which it contributes to young people's capacity and potential for civic engagement.

Section 7

Procedure for determining the eligibility of a national youth work centre of expertise for state aid

A youth work centre of expertise may be a municipality, joint municipal authority, limited liability company, cooperative, university, association or foundation or a contract-based consortium of said entities.

An organisation seeking the status of a youth work centre of expertise shall apply for eligibility for state aid in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for state aid set out in section 19 of the Youth Act. The Assessment and State Aid Commission shall issue an opinion in the matter.

The national significance and social impact of the youth work centre of expertise in the field of youth work is assessed by evaluating its activities, tasks and expertise in the light of the then-current national youth work and policy programme. When the existing system and network of centres of expertise is assessed as a whole, due consideration is given to the activities and expertise of the centres in view of the need to develop youth work and policy in the national context.

Aside from the provisions of section 19(2) of the Youth Act, the centre of expertise shall meet the following criteria to be eligible for state aid:

- 1) centre's activities are goal-oriented, significant and economical;
- 2) the centre manages its finances and administration well;
- 3) the staff of the centre possesses the expertise necessary for the fulfilment of its mission;
- 4) the centre has a network of partners appropriate in terms of fulfilling its mission;
- 5) the centre has in place a system for monitoring and assessing its activities.

Section 8

Granting of state aid to a national youth work centre of expertise

State aid is granted for the tasks specified jointly by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the centre of expertise involved. The Assessment and State Aid Commission shall issue a proposal on the matter.

When the mission, quality and social impact of the centre of expertise is assessed, due consideration is given to:

- 1) the centre's service capacity;
- 2) the qualitative and quantitative indicators for the centre's activities;
- 3) the goal-orientation and economic efficiency of the centre's activities as well as the management of its finances and administration;
- 4) the professional skills and competence of the centre's staff; and
- 5) the centre's accounting which must be organised so as to ensure that the cost of the youth work activities financed by state aid can be clearly determined.

Section 9

Procedure for determining the eligibility of national youth centres for state aid

A national youth centre may be a municipality, joint municipal authority, limited liability company, cooperative, association or foundation.

An organisation seeking the status of a national youth centre shall apply for eligibility for state aid in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for state aid set out in section 20 of the Youth Act.

When the social impact of a national youth centre is assessed, due consideration is given to access to the activities as well as the centre's partner networks and resources for developing youth work. When the existing system and network of national youth centres is assessed as a whole, due consideration is given to the size, geographical location and diversity of the activities offered by each youth centre.

Aside from the provisions of section 20(2) of the Youth Act, the national youth centre shall meet the following criteria to be eligible for state aid:

- 1) the centre's activities target mainly young people;
- 2) the centre's activities are goal-oriented, significant and economical;
- 3) the centre's finances and administration are managed well;

- 4) the centre is suitable for round-the-year guided activities in terms of location, environment, premises and facilities and its activities extend to several municipalities;
- 5) the centre employs a youth work professional in charge of youth work and a sufficient number of instructors as well as possesses sufficient expertise in youth work;
- 6) the centre assumes responsibility for the safety of its activities and surroundings; and
- 7) the centre has in place a system for monitoring and assessing its own activities.

Section 10

Granting of state aid to national youth centres

State aid is granted for tasks specified jointly by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the national youth centre involved in connection with the procedure for determining the objectives of the activities.

When the need for aid is assessed, due consideration is given to the financial position of the centre. When the centre's financial position is assessed, due consideration is given to the revenues generated by its own activities, the cost of activities other than youth work activities as a percentage of total costs as well as the profitability of operations.

When the mission, quality and social impact of the national youth centre are assessed, due consideration is given to:

- 1) the centre's service capacity and the feedback received from the target group and partner network;
- 2) the qualitative and quantitative indicators for the centre's activities specified in connection with the procedure for determining the objectives of the activities;
- 3) the goal-orientation and economic efficiency of the centre's activities and the management of its finances and administration;
- 4) the professional qualifications and competence of the staff;
- 5) the total number of people involved in the activities and the percentage of young people of the total;
- 6) the number of young people involved in instruction relative to other uses of the premises by young people;
- 7) number of nights spent on the premises by young people and the total number of nights;
- 8) promotion of sustainable development; and
- 9) accounting which must be organised so as to ensure that the cost of the youth work activities financed by state aid can be clearly determined.

Section 11

Procedure for determining the eligibility of youth workshop activities for state aid

Youth workshop activities may be organised by a municipality, joint municipal authority, limited liability company, cooperative, association or foundation.

An organisation seeking the status of an organiser of youth workshop activities shall apply for eligibility for state aid in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The ministry will determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for state aid set out in section 21 of the Youth Act.

When the quality and social impact of the youth workshop activities is assessed, due consideration is given to how the young person's potential for accessing education, work or other needed service has improved after the workshop period.

Aside from the provisions of section 21(2) of the Youth Act, the youth workshop activities shall meet the following criteria to be eligible for state aid:

- 1) the activities are goal-oriented, significant and economical;
- 2) the finances and administration are managed well;
- 3) the youth workshop has a sufficient number of coaching staff with appropriate coaching skills;
- 4) the activities are suitable for round-the-year guided activities in terms of premises and facilities;

- 5) the organiser of youth workshop activities has in place a monitoring and assessment system to verify the impacts of the coaching provided for young people.

Section 12

Granting of state aid for youth workshop activities

When state aid is granted for youth workshop activities, due consideration in the assessment of the quality and social impact of the activities is given to the following:

- 1) the centre's service capacity and the feedback received from the target group and partner network;
- 2) information on the effect and impact of the activities;
- 3) the goal-orientation and economic efficiency of the activities as well as the management of their finances and administration;
- 4) the professional qualifications and competence of the staff;
- 5) the continuity and regularity of the activities round the year;
- 6) the suitability of the premises for the activities; and
- 7) accounting which must be organised so as to ensure that the cost of the youth work activities financed by state aid can be clearly determined.

Section 13

Entry into force

This Decree shall enter into force on 13 April 2017.