

## **Translation from Finnish**

**Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish**

**Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland**

## **Government Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy**

*(211/2017)*

By decision of the Government, the following is enacted under the Youth Act (1285/2016):

### **Section 1**

#### **Regional government duties related to youth work and youth policy**

Regional State Administrative Agencies are responsible for:

- 1) implementing and developing national youth work and youth policy at the regional level;
- 2) awarding discretionary government grants, monitoring the use of the grants awarded and carrying out impact assessments; (616/2023)
- 3) providing guidance by information to the sector;
- 4) compiling information on youth work and youth policy;
- 5) assessing the adequacy, quality and accessibility of services intended for young people;
- 6) engaging in international cooperation;
- 7) assuming other duties assigned by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the guidance and direction of youth services in regional administration.

### **Section 2**

#### **National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme**

The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme:

- 1) coordinates the objectives and measures determined by the key ministries in promoting young people's growth and living conditions, designed to contribute to the attainment of the objectives defined in section 2 of the Youth Act (1285/2016) during each programme period;
- 2) incorporates the policies for supporting youth work and youth activities, including the priorities of national centres of expertise in the youth sector for eligibility for discretionary government grants referred to in section 19 of the Youth Act; and
- 3) establishes the national objectives for activities in the youth sector within 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 the Council of Europe; and
- 3) the diversity of youth and the various minorities among young people.

### **Section 3**

#### **State Youth Council**

When the impact of the measures taken by central government are assessed, the State Youth Council shall take into account the appropriations in the national budget allocated to young people's growth and living conditions. The State Youth Council shall, once during each government term, draw up for the Government 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 consists of a chair, two deputy chairs and a maximum of 16 members. The Council is appointed by the Government following consultations with parties engaged in the youth sector. The Council comprises representatives with expertise in youth work, youth policy and youth activities. Additionally, all the political parties in Parliament shall be represented in the Council. (175/2018)

The Council shall be appointed within six months of the beginning of each parliamentary term and the Council's term terminates once the next Council has been appointed. 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.

The Council is quorate when the chair of the meeting and at least half of the members are present. 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 the permanent experts have the right to attend and address the Council meetings.

The Council has a general secretary and may also have other staff. The Ministry of Education and Culture appoints the general secretary and other staff members. The general secretary and other staff members are in the employment of the Ministry of Education and Culture. (616/2023)

The Ministry determines the fees for attending meetings and the remuneration payable to the chair, deputy chair, members and experts of the Council.

## **Section 4**

### **Committee for assessment and discretionary government grants**

When carrying out its duties in government grant matters, the committee for assessment and discretionary government grants submits a reasoned opinion on how the conditions laid down in the Youth Act have been met.

The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants has a chair, a deputy chair and a maximum of eight members. The Government appoints the committee after consulting organisations and other parties in the youth sector. The committee has members with knowledge of the activities of national organisations in the youth sector, youth work and youth policy, and youth activities. (175/2018)

The committee shall be appointed within six months of the beginning of each parliamentary term and the committee's term terminates once the next committee has been appointed. 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.

The committee is quorate when the chair of the meeting and at least half of the members are present. The representatives appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the permanent experts have the right to attend and address the committee meetings.

The committee has a general secretary and may also have other staff. The Ministry of Education and Culture appoints the general secretary and other staff members. The general secretary and other staff members are in the employment of the Ministry of Education and Culture. (616/2023)

The Ministry determines the fees for attending meetings and the remuneration payable to the chair, deputy chair, members and experts of the committee.

## **Section 5 (616/2023)**

### **Granting national organisations in the youth sector eligibility for discretionary government grants**

Any organisation seeking the status of a national organisation in the youth sector shall apply for eligibility for discretionary government grants in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry assesses whether the applicant meets the conditions for eligibility for discretionary government grants laid down in section 17 of the Youth Act. The assessment is made based on the organisation's planned and actual activities. The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants issues its opinion on the matter.

When the significance of the organisation's activities and their ability to have an impact are assessed from the perspective of youth work and youth activities, due consideration is given to how goal-oriented and effective the organisation's activities are and to the scope of their impact in the youth sector.

When the topical nature of the organisation's activities is assessed, consideration is given to how the organisation's activities meet the current needs of young people.

When the nationwide coverage of the activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the regional coverage of the organisation's activities. The organisation's activities are defined as nationwide when they are organised in at least seven counties or when the organisation's activities reach the target group in other ways across the nation.

When the promotion of equality, non-discrimination and participation of young people are assessed, due consideration is given to how each organisation executes the promotion in their internal activities and in society within the scope of the organisation's objectives and measures and how accessible the organisation's activities are for young people belonging to different groups.

When the responsible management of the organisation's administration and finances is assessed, due consideration is given to whether each organisation monitors and supervises its administration and finances appropriately.

An organisation may qualify as eligible for discretionary government grants 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 organisations or local associations (youth organisation);
- 2) 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); or
- 3) the primary purpose is to provide services to organisations in the youth sector, municipalities or other entities in the youth sector (service organisation in the youth sector).

Exceptions may be made to the eligibility conditions laid down in subsection 7 or to 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 (616/2023)**

### **Granting discretionary government grants for national organisations in the youth sector**

When awarding discretionary government grants to national organisations in the youth sector, the Ministry of Education and Culture assesses the planned activities of each organisation and how the activities have been carried out. The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants makes its proposal on the matter.

When the quality of the organisation's activities and their ability to have an impact are assessed, due consideration is given to the goal-oriented nature of the organisation's activities, the attainment of the established objectives, and the self-monitoring of the development of its own activities with regard to youth work and youth activities.

When the topical nature of the organisation's activities is assessed, due consideration is given to how well the organisation's activities meet the existing needs of young people.

When the scope and accessibility of the organisation's activities are assessed, due consideration is given to the extent and diversity of the activities, the number of young people involved in the grant-financed activities, the number of young members in the organisation and how well the organisation reaches its target group at the national level.

When the promotion of equality and non-discrimination among young people are assessed, due consideration is given to the measures the organisation uses to implement equality and non-discrimination in its own activities and in society.

When an organisation's contribution to the promotion of participation is assessed, due consideration is given to the extent to which the organisation provides societally beneficial competence for young people and offers young people opportunities to influence the activities of the organisation.

When the administration and financial management of the organisation are assessed, due consideration is given to the measures taken by the organisation to ensure that its administration and finances are managed diligently.

## **Section 7 (616/2023)**

### **Granting eligibility for national centres of expertise in the youth sector for discretionary government grants**

A centre of expertise in the youth sector may be a municipality, joint municipal authority, limited liability company, cooperative, higher education institution, association, foundation or a contract-based consortium of such entities.

An organisation seeking the status of a centre of expertise in the youth sector shall apply for eligibility for discretionary government grants in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry determines whether the applicant meets the eligibility conditions for discretionary government grants laid down in section 19 of the Youth Act. The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants issues its opinion on the matter.

When the network of centres of expertise as a whole is assessed, due consideration is given to the activities and expertise of the centres in view of the need to develop youth work and youth policy in the national context.

## **Section 8 (616/2023)**

### **Granting discretionary government grants for national centres of expertise in the youth sector**

Discretionary government grants are awarded for tasks jointly agreed between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the national centre of expertise in the youth sector. The committee for assessment and discretionary government grants issues its proposal on the matter.

When the quality and scope of the tasks and activities of the centre of expertise are assessed, due consideration is given to the following:

- 1) service capacity and the staff expertise in relation to the tasks of the centre of expertise;
- 2) key figures measuring the quality and volume of activities;
- 3) the goal-oriented and cost-effective nature of the activities as well as the management of finances and administration;

The accounting of the centres shall be organised in such a way that the accounts clearly disclose the cost of the activities supported by discretionary government grants for youth work.

## **Section 9 (616/2023)**

### **Granting youth centres eligibility for discretionary government grants**

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

An organisation seeking the status of a youth centre shall apply for eligibility for discretionary government grants in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry determines whether the applicant meets the eligibility conditions for discretionary government grants laid down in section 20 of the Youth Act.

When the quality of activities of youth centres is assessed, due consideration is given to the goal-oriented nature of the activities as well as the centre's potential for developing its youth work.

When the scope of the activities is assessed, due consideration is given to the number of young people participating in the activities and the degree of guidance organised by the centre. When the ability of the activities of the organisation to have an impact is assessed, due consideration is given to reaching the target groups of the centre as well as the centre's partner networks and

communications. When the overall 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.

In addition to the provisions of section 20, subsection 2 of the Youth Act, the eligibility of a youth centre for discretionary government grants is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) the centre's activities target mainly young people;
- 2) the centre has plans in place for promoting sustainable development and for international activities and the centre complies with such plans in its activities;
- 3) the centre's finances and administration are managed diligently and the centre has a monitoring and assessment system in place for its activities;
- 4) the setting, facilities and equipment of the centre are suitable for guided youth work;
- 5) the centre employs a youth work professional in charge of youth work, a sufficient number of guidance staff and a sufficient amount of expertise in youth work;
- 6) the centre assumes responsibility for the safety of its activities and setting;
- 7) the activities of the centre extend to several municipalities.

## **Section 10 (616/2023)**

### **Granting discretionary government grants to youth centres**

When the amount of a discretionary government grant for a youth centre is being considered, the Ministry of Education and Culture assesses the planned and realised activities of the centre.

When the quality of youth work is assessed, due consideration is given to the goal-oriented nature of the activities, self-monitoring of activities, assessment of the attainment of objectives, and the professional skills and competence of the personnel.

When the scope of youth work is assessed, due consideration is given to the number of young people participating in guided activities and the number of their days at accommodation as well as the amount of guidance organised by the centre.

When the ability of the activities of the organisation to have an impact is assessed, due consideration is given to the diversity and scope of the partner network, the versatility of communications, international activities and the promotion of sustainable development.



When the management of finances and administration are assessed, due consideration is given to the measures taken by the centre to ensure that its finances and administration are managed diligently.

The accounting of youth centres shall be organised so as to ensure that the cost of the activities related to youth work financed by using discretionary government grants can be clearly determined.

## **Section 11**

### **Granting eligibility for discretionary government grants for workshop activities for young people**

Workshop activities for young people may be organised by a municipality, a joint municipal authority, a limited liability company, a cooperative, an association, or a foundation.

An organisation seeking the status of an organiser of youth workshop activities shall apply for eligibility for discretionary government grants in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Ministry determines whether the applicant meets the eligibility conditions for discretionary government grants laid down in section 21 of the Youth Act.

When the quality and societal impact of the youth workshop activities are assessed, due consideration is given to how young people's opportunities to place themselves in education, work or other services they need have improved since the workshop period.

In addition to the provisions of section 21, subsection 2 of the Youth Act, the eligibility of youth workshop activities for discretionary government grants is subject to the following conditions:

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

## **Section 12**

## **Awarding discretionary government grants for workshop activities for young people**

When awarding discretionary government grants for workshop activities for young people, due consideration is given to the following in the assessment of the quality and societal impact of the activities:

- 1) the centre's service capacity and the feedback received from the target group and partner network;
- 2) information on the effectiveness of the activities;
- 3) the goal-oriented and cost-effective nature of the activities as well as the management of finances and administration;
- 4) the professional skills and expertise of the staff;
- 5) the continuity and regularity of the activities round the year;
- 6) the suitability of the facilities for the activities; and
- 7) accounting, which shall be organised so as to ensure that the cost of the activities related youth work financed using discretionary government grants can be clearly determined.

## **Section 13**

### **Entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 13 April 2017.