

Estonian Education Forum

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- EEF – the network of citizens and NGOs joining the interest groups and stakeholders in education
- Since 1995

History

- EEF has been established in 1995
- Radical changes in social and economic environment have made coherent educational reforms inevitable
- Many interest groups have perceived the need for extensive social agreement concerning:
 - educational policy principles
 - strategic goals
 - general direction of change

EEF mission

- EEF's mission is to support democratic processes of participation, partnership and social agreement in Estonian education strategy and policy
- EEF – co-operation network of 40+ interest groups (students, parents, teachers, employers, politicians, ...) and organisations (educational institutions, professional and trade unions, political parties, ...) in the field of education

Legal structure and functioning

- Fully independent NGO, people working at voluntary basis
- Initially EEF functioned without any legal body
- EEF Foundation has been established as a support structure in 1996
- NGO EEF has been established in 2000 as a legal entity
- Membership comprises of legal entities (institutionalised interest groups) and individuals
- Governing body (5-7 members),
- Single paid administrator
- Yearly renewing working party (about 30 members, being elected in the annual Education Forum)
- Funding: Government provides funds for a single meeting a year and the administrator

Main forms of activity

- Annual education forum and pre-forums on topical issues in education policy
- Permanent e-forum (EEF-list) with more than 1000 participants
- Annual proceedings of EEF (research papers and papers presented during different forums)
- Database of Best Practices

Main Activities

- Education strategy and policy development and discussions:
- *Drafting and discussing education strategy (Learning Estonia) (1995-2002)*
- *Development of LLL Strategy in partnership with Estonian Cooperation Assmbly and MoER (2009...)*
- Central Education Policy Issues discussions (
- Serving as support structure for the EFA (*Education for All*) national program (2003-...)
- EU Education Policy dimensions & International Cooperation

The Open Working Method

**EXPERTS
CIVIL SERVANTS**



ESTONIAN EDUCATION FORUM



REGIONAL EDUCATION FORUMS
Different Target Groups
Public at large

Conclusions

- EEF has established a well functioning network of interest groups and organisations in Estonia
- EEF has created a platform for wide public debate in educational policy issues in Estonia
- EEF's activities have significantly influenced the development of ideas in educational policy and the establishment of civil society principles and methods in Estonia
- EEF is a good example of a working structures and method for civil society development