

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) links educational institutions that promote the values of UNESCO and work in support of peace, intercultural dialogue and understanding, sustainable development and quality education in practice.

UNESCO ASPnet links 45 educational institutions in Estonia. The two priorities of the network are Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education. Member schools lead and implement innovative projects that support the students to acquire the knowledge, skills and competences needed in the globalising and rapidly changing world. The activities of the network highlight the importance of UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to Target 4.7.

The Baltic Sea Project (BSP) is the biggest and oldest project of ASPnet in Estonia. The project links ASPnet schools around the Baltic and initiates the cooperation among schools in different countries. The BSP activities aim to increase students' awareness of environmental problems in the Baltic Sea area and emphasizes the scientific, social and cultural aspects of the interdependence between man and nature. ASPnet and BSP are coordinated respectively by NGO Mondo and Tartu Environmental Education Centre.

The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is a network of higher education institutions that share UNESCO's values and mobilize expertise to support the advancement of UNESCO's programmatic goals. There is one UNESCO chair in Estonia.

UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the University of Tartu operates at the Institute of Cultural Research in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The aim is to facilitate the enrichment of existing university programmes and to develop new teaching programmes in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The Chair is responsible for postgraduate studies, but it also fosters new academic and research partnerships with a goal to build a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, and policy-making.

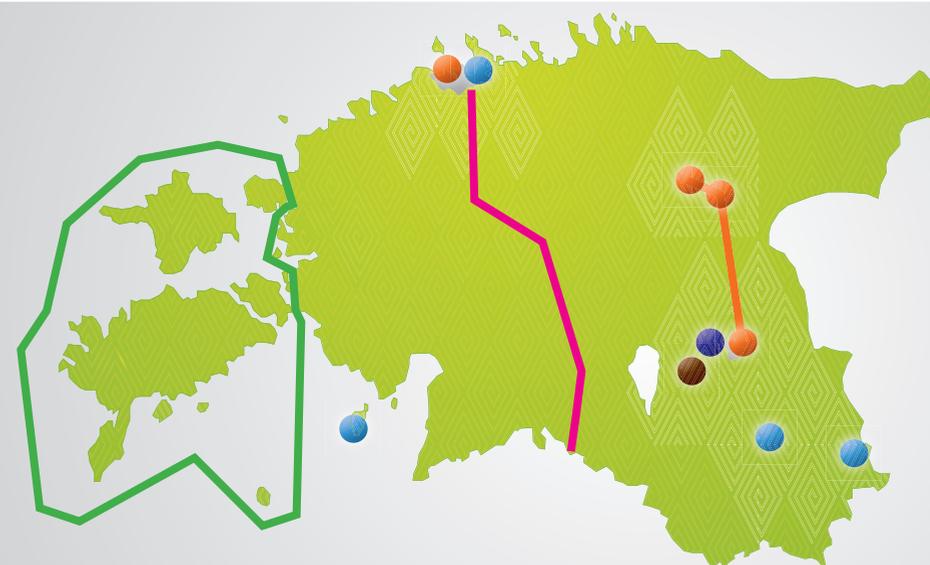
The UNESCO Creative Cities network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

Tartu is a member of the Creative Cities network and has the international title of the City of Literature. The aim is to ensure that literature reaches as wide and diverse an audience as possible, locally and internationally.



UNESCO in Estonia

The Estonian National Commission for UNESCO coordinates UNESCO's programmes in Estonia and creates possibilities for interested stakeholders to take part in UNESCO's work.



- World Heritage List:
 - Tallinn's Old Town, Struve Geodetic Arc
 - The ICH Representative List: Smoke sauna tradition, Seto *leelo*, Kihnu cultural space, Song and dance celebrations.
 - Memory of the World International Register – Documentary Heritage of The Baltic Way
 - West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve
 - UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the University of Tartu
 - Tartu – City of Literature
- + 45 UNESCO ASPnet members

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The heritage of Estonia included on UNESCO lists

The World Heritage List includes natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value (OUV) that form part of the common heritage of humankind. Estonia has two entries on the World Heritage List.

Tallinn's Old Town has outstanding universal value because its medieval trading city characteristics have been preserved through the centuries and it continues to function as a living environment with a variety of dwelling houses, public buildings and churches. Its original street network, largely intact town wall and many of its buildings date from medieval times. The Old Town is also known for historic earthworks that have been turned into green areas and its rich layers of archaeological finds.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity includes traditional practices, cultural expressions, knowledge and skills that contribute to demonstrating the diversity of the living heritage. Estonia has four entries on the Representative List.

Smoke sauna tradition in Võromaa is primarily a family custom among the Võro community in southern Estonia. It comprises a rich set of traditions including actual bathing customs to relax the mind and body and the skills of making bath whisks, building and repairing saunas and smoking meat in the sauna.

The Struve Geodetic Arc which links ten countries, was named after the wellknown astronomer and geodesist Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, who worked at the University of Tartu. Between 1816 and 1855 he and his colleagues calculated the first accurate measurements of a meridian to establish the size and shape of the Earth. The 2820 km long segment stretches from northern Norway to the Black Sea. Three out of the 34 listed original station points are found in Estonia – Tartu Observatory and the points in Võivere and Simuna.

Kihnu cultural space refers to the small islands of Kihnu and Manija lying off Estonia's western coast. These islands are home to a community of 600 people with established livelihood practices and rich cultural traditions. The local dialect, Kihnu wedding parties, calendar festivities, songs, games, dances and traditional crafts continue to define the community.

Seto polyphonic singing tradition - the Seto leelo - is a traditional way of singing where music is combined with texts that follow particular poetic rules and structures, being defined by particular occasions and singing situations. For the Seto community in south-eastern Estonia the leelo is a cornerstone of contemporary identity, transmitting lifestyle, language and traditions.

Song and dance celebrations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have served as a vital tool in nation-building in all three countries. The Baltic practice of song and dance in organised choirs, dance groups and music ensembles culminates cyclically with nationwide parallel celebrations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - the most massive and inclusive communal events celebrating cultural identity.

The Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage that corresponds to the selection criteria of world significance and outstanding universal value. Estonia has one entry in the register, submitted together with Latvia and Lithuania.

The Baltic Way was a unique, peaceful mass demonstration that took place on 23 August 1989, when more than a million people joined hands to form a human chain that was over 600 km long and reached across the three Baltic States, linking Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in their drive for freedom. The most representative documents of the Baltic Way, which are preserved in the National Archives of Estonia, the Museum of the Popular Front of Latvia and the Lithuanian Central State Archive, are included in the register.

UNESCO's networks

UNESCO biosphere reserves network comprises areas of terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems, which are internationally recognized under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme.

The West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve has a total area of 1 560 078 ha which is situated in three counties – Saare, Hiiu and Lääne counties. The three main goals of the UNESCO biosphere reserve are protecting biological diversity, ensuring sustainable management and human development and supporting education for sustainable development, research and monitoring. In order to achieve these three goals, Estonia has created a sustainable development programme for the area.