

UNESCO's educational networks

In Estonia, the most active educational network is the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and its Baltic Sea Project.

UNESCO ASP Network

21 schools in Estonia belong to the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). The network's objective is to promote the values of UNESCO by leading projects and thus supporting the development of the knowledge, skills and competence needed in the 21st century, including non-cognitive elements of education and their relevance. The schools also pay special attention to global citizenship education and education for sustainable development. UNESCO ASPnet annually organises two major national events in Estonia: a United Nations General Assembly simulation and the Students' Science Conference. In Estonia the network is being coordinated by NGO Mondo.

Baltic Sea Project

The Baltic Sea Project is an international network among ASP schools that strives for a better environment in the Baltic catchment area. Today, 156 schools are active in the BSP, 28 of them in Estonia. Their objective is to increase students' awareness of environmental problems in the Baltic Sea area and to give them an understanding of the scientific, social and cultural aspects of the interdependence between man and nature. Among the many activities that take place for network members are study visits, lectures and tours for teachers and students. The general coordination of the project was led from 2012-2015 by the Tartu Environmental Education Centre.

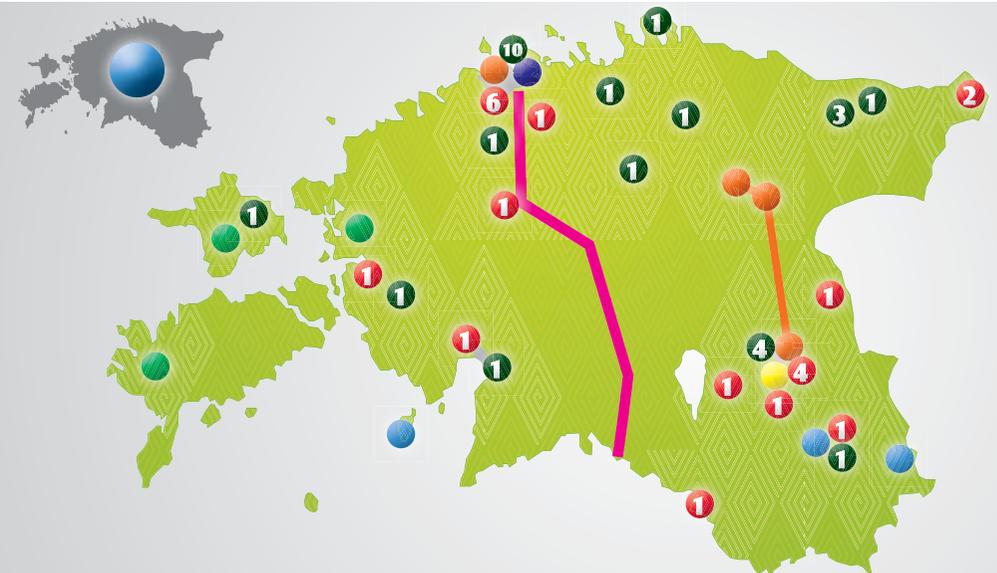
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

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.



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.



- 21 UNESCO ASP Schools
- 28 UNESCO BSP Schools
- UNESCO Chair in Civics and Multicultural Education Studies
- Estonian UNESCO Youth Association
- West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve
- World Heritage List: Tallinn's Old Town, Struve Geodetic Arc
- Memory of the World International Register – Documentary Heritage of The Baltic Way
- The Representative List: Smoke sauna tradition, Seto *leelo*, Kihnu cultural space, Song and dance celebrations.

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The heritage of Estonia included on UNESCO lists

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Intangible cultural heritage, also known as living heritage, refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills transmitted by communities from generation to generation. Estonia has four entries on the Representative List.

Smoke sauna tradition in Võromaa

The smoke sauna tradition 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.

Seto leelo – the 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.

Kihnu cultural space

Lying off Estonia's western coast, the small islands of Kihnu and Manija 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.

Song and dance celebrations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

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. These celebrations have served as a vital tool in nation-building in all three countries, while evolving into the most massive and inclusive communal event celebrating cultural identity.

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 Struve Geodetic Arc, which links ten countries, was named after the well-known 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.

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.

