

NGO New Generation - Estonia

Introduction

NGO New Generation (in Estonian: Jõhvi Kristlik Kogudus Uus Põlvkond MTÜ) is a facility in Jõhvi, a small town in northeastern Estonia, founded in 2015. It offers support to people who have been in prison, people who are homeless and people recovering from hospitalization, anyone who wants to change their lives and needs help overcoming addiction. The facility also accommodates incarcerated people who have served their sentences and those on early release, including those under electronic monitoring.

The work of NGO New Generation was initiated by Yuriy Mysnyk, who himself has lived experience with addiction. After seeking help from a rehabilitation program in his home country of Ukraine, he helped establish two rehabilitation facilities in Ukraine. He later came to Estonia at the invitation of a New Generation Church pastor to help start this facility in Jõhvi. NGO New Generation is a Christian organization that integrates Christian faith into its work.

In addition to rehabilitation services, NGO New Generation is committed to helping as many people as possible, including those struggling with addiction, those experiencing homelessness and young people in need. The organization continues to expand its outreach to support people in difficult circumstances.

Scale

NGO New Generation can accommodate up to 50 residents, who are divided into three different groups based on their needs and stage in the program.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

NGO New Generation accommodates individuals aged 18 and older and is open to both men and women. The target group is a wide range of people in need of help, including those leaving prison, homeless individuals, and people transitioning from hospital care, anyone who is committed to changing their life and needs support to break free from addiction. The facility is not only home to the residents but also to the workers of the facility, the pastor of the church and his family, and volunteers. Participation in the program is

voluntary, and individuals must agree to abide by the rules and actively participate in all activities within the program. However, there are some contraindications for admission to the program. If it turns out that the person requires psychiatric care or hospital treatment rather than rehabilitation, they are not suitable for the program. Additionally, individuals who are unwilling to stop smoking or taking psychoactive drugs are not accepted.

The placement procedure involves early cooperation with a support person. For people who are within six months of completing their sentence, they begin to work with a support person, and upon completion of their sentence, they are released to the facility. For individuals who are within three months of the possibility of early release, cooperation with a support person also begins. If the court decides to grant early release, the individual is required to come to the facility and participate in the program.

The average length of stay in the program is nine to twelve months, but for those who wish to continue serving and supporting others, there is no set time limit on how long they can stay.

Forms of security:

NGO New Generation places a strong emphasis on security across various forms to ensure the safety, discipline, and overall success of its rehabilitation program.

Relational security is a key part of the environment at NGO New Generation. All staff members at the facility have gone through the program themselves, which gives them a unique understanding of the challenges faced by the residents. This experience enables them to offer genuine motivation, support, and guidance. With five core staff members on the grounds, alongside many volunteers and other individuals who live at the facility, a strong sense of community is achieved..

Static security is also an important aspect of the facility's operations. Although cameras have recently been ordered and are awaiting installation, the organization is taking proactive steps to ensure full surveillance of the entire territory, including the parking lot. A security company will be hired, and cameras will monitor both the building and its surroundings. While the installation of the cameras is essential, the center also acknowledges the importance of human oversight. A signalling system is in place to alert staff in case of emergencies.

Procedural security is highly structured, with strict rules in place to support the program's goals. Upon arrival, residents must show all their belongings, and for the first month, they undergo a quarantine period. If any suspicion arises during their stay, staff members have the authority to conduct alcohol and drug tests, and room checks may be carried out if necessary. The staff emphasizes that a resident's behavior and

appearance often provide the clearest indications of any recidivism, thus creating a proactive approach to prevent relapse. The strict rules regarding substances are critical for the success of the addiction program. There is a zero-tolerance policy for smoking, alcohol, drugs, or any other psychotropic medication. Although residents are allowed to have a laptop or mobile phone, their use is controlled to avoid distractions and ensure that the focus remains on recovery.

Activities:

The program at NGO New Generation is based on the 10 Steps program, which focuses on helping residents change their attitudes and behaviors to break free from addiction and criminal patterns. The structure of the program provides increasing levels of empowerment, responsibility, and freedom, allowing residents to practice independent living. The pace of this progression depends on each individual's commitment and progress. Early on, residents' movement outside the center is controlled, with visits to the mall, shops, or church allowed only in small groups and accompanied by staff. As they build trust, residents gain more independence, with family members accompanying them on outings during visitation days in the later stages of the program.

Inside the facility, residents have a significant degree of freedom to manage their time, provided they attend all mandatory activities and follow the rules. They have three hours of free time each day to engage in hobbies, socialize, or relax. The schedule is balanced to ensure both work and leisure time, preventing overwhelming residents.

Residents also have access to services such as Unemployment Fund consultations and language courses, as well as daily work exercises that teach work ethics and practical job skills. Additional personal development opportunities, such as driving school, are available, and the staff supports residents with community service hours if needed. Basic life skills, such as renovation work and learning communication and social skills, are also taught.

Psychological support is available through counseling sessions with a psychologist, and residents learn job skills and safety. They are encouraged to spend time on personal reflection, meditation, and activities like prayer, worship music, reading, and art. Every Friday, residents take part in a prayer and worship meeting, joined by both current participants and alumni of the program.

Visitation is allowed under strict conditions. Recently released individuals can receive visitors after one month, while others must wait 2 to 3 months to ensure they are sober and stable. Visits are scheduled for weekends and must be approved by staff. Visitors can meet residents only in designated common areas, and all parcels and gifts brought by visitors are inspected by staff.

Community-integration

Location and architecture:

NGO New Generation is situated in a remote area within the municipality of Jõhvi, a small town in northeastern Estonia. Jõhvi has a population of approximately 10 877 inhabitants (2021).¹

The facility itself is located in a quiet area on the outskirts of the town, with the nearest neighbors about 1–2 kilometers away. The facility is well connected to public transport. A local bus station is just 500 meters away, and the railway station is also within close proximity.

The building was originally owned by a wealthy businessman whose son had alcohol problems. As an act of charity, he rented it to Yuri, the founder of NGO New Generation, for rehabilitation work. At first, it had no electricity or running water, but renovations gradually turned it into a facility. Later, when the owner decided to sell it, the manager bought the building on credit, ensuring a permanent home for the organization. While the building is in need of renovation, plans for major improvements are already in progress.

The facility is housed in a large building that, at first glance, resembles an old manor house or school rather than a facility. The facility includes shared bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, a living room, a large dining room as well as several extra rooms. The spacious yard is filled with greenery, trees, and plants. A greenhouse has been ordered, and in the summer, the residents will cultivate their own vegetables in an allotment.

Additionally, the lower floor of the building has a fellowship hall, a swimming pool, a large sauna with a capacity for 30 people, and a soup kitchen where food and clothing are distributed to those in need. The facility also includes a garage and another building in the city center, which houses a fast-food restaurant and a second-hand store.

Interaction with the community:

Although the NGO New Generation has strict rules regarding when residents may leave the facility and who may enter, there is still much interaction between residents and the community. The facility's strongest ties are with various congregations and churches, which form the main social network. The facility also works closely with the Department of Justice and the unemployment office. Although the municipality provides social benefits, direct cooperation remains limited.

¹CityPopulation.de. (2021). *Jõhvi (Municipality, Estonia)*. CityPopulation.de. Retrieved February 25, 2025, from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/estonia/ua/ida_viru/L045__j%C3%B5hvi/

To help residents reintegrate into the community, the facility provides step-by-step training to guide them in getting around the city, communicating with authorities, and becoming more independent. This training helps them build the skills they need to live on their own and interact with others in society. The facility also benefits from generous donors, particularly from the Christian community, who regularly contribute food and clothing. These donations play a key role in supporting residents.

Volunteering is another important way the facility connects with the local community. It gives residents the chance to meet new people and form positive relationships. Additionally, the NGO operates a grocery store that helps provide food for the facility, as well as three second-hand furniture stores. These social enterprises not only provide much-needed financial support to the organization, but they also offer valuable work experience for residents.

NGO New Generation

Founded: 2015

Capacity: 50

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town: Jõhvi
(Estonia)

Nature of interaction:

Mapped by Village of Hope
(04-02-2025)

Publicity/ read more

- More information about NGO New Generation at the official website of NGO New Generation:

NGO New Generation. (n.d.). *Homepage*. NGO New Generation. Retrieved February 25, 2025, from <https://www.nge.ee>