

Long-term and Cross-cutting Issues in European Governments and Parliaments

Estonia

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Preface

This country report is one part of a comprehensive report presenting the results of an inquiry concerning the institutions, methods and procedures used by governments and parliaments throughout Europe for dealing with long-term and cross-cutting issues. The study was conducted by the *EURES institute* on behalf of the *Office for Technology Assessment of the German Parliament (TAB)*.

Especially the concept of `Sustainable Development` requires a long-term and cross-cutting perspective. Therefore governments and parliaments in many countries are looking for new approaches to deal with these issues. In this context the project aimed at collecting a wide range of information about the institutions and the methods used by them for tackling long-term and cross-cutting issues.

Consequently, this report can also be used as a handbook. It should foster an international exchange of information and experiences concerning these questions. We are confident that the provided information is of practical use for organisations and experts involved in long-term and cross-cutting issues. Unfortunately some parts of the report exist only in a German version. A desirable complete English translation would require to find a source for additional funding

This country report contains:

- A compilation of detailed characterisations of long-term and cross-cutting institutions within the country (English)

More information both concerning the project and the other parts of the report is provided on <http://www.eures.de/r38>.

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3 Estland

Fläche:	45.227 km ²
Einwohner:	1.458.000
Bruttosozialprodukt je Einwohner (1997) in US\$:	3360

Die im Rahmen dieser Studie zur Verfügung gestellten Informationen haben leider für eine ausführliche Analyse des politisch-institutionellen Kontextes sowie des spezifischen Umgangs mit Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen in Estland nicht ausgereicht.

Insofern sind an dieser Stelle lediglich die Ergebnisse der Umfrage zu finden.

3.1 Survey Results: Organisations and Experiences

Säästva Arengu Komisjon

Estonian Commission on Sustainable Development

SAK
ECSD

301 348

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2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input type="checkbox"/> primeminister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ministries <input type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input type="checkbox"/>
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According to the given mandate ECSD is functioning as an advisory body to the Government.

3. organisational structure

permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temporary <input type="checkbox"/> from to	public <input type="checkbox"/> academic <input type="checkbox"/> profit <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input type="checkbox"/> committee <input type="checkbox"/> network <input type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	23 Members of the ECSD are appointed by the institutional affiliation as follows: Government 6; Parliament 2; Academia 5; NGO 2; Business 3; Government institutions 5.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	Mr. Mart Laar, Prime Minister, Chairman; Mr. Heiki Kranich, Minister of the Environment, Deputy Chairman; Mr. Mihkel Pärnoja, Minister of Economy, Deputy Chairman. Members: Mr. Hannes Danilov, Secretary General, Ministry of Social Affairs; Mr. Henn Elmet, Rector, Estonian Agricultural University; Mr. Jüri Engelbrecht, President, Academy of Science; Mr. Aare Järvan, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Toivo Jürgenson, Minister of Transport and Communications; Mr. Volli Kalm, Rector, Tartu University; Ms. Aino Kerde, Acting Director of department, Ministry of Social Affairs; Mr. Rein Küttner, Vice-rector, Professor, Tallinn Technical University; Mr. Jaak Lokk, Member of the Board, Estonian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises; Mr. Tõnis Lukas, Minister of Education; Mr. Tõnu Oja, Chairman, Estonian Green Movement; Member of the Board, Estonian Confederation of Employers and Industry; Mr. Peep Ratas, Secretary General, Ministry of Education; Mr. Mart Relve, General Director, Estonian Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Arvo Sirendi, Deputy-chair of the Environmental Commission of Parliament; Mr. Juhan Telgmaa, Member, Estonian Nature Conservation Society; Mr. Lauri Vahtre, Member, Environmental Commission of Parliament; Mr. Sulev Vare, Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment; Mr. Mihkel Veiderma, Secretary General, Academy of Science.	
<i>annual budget</i>	In the Budget of Ministry of the Environment is an article for	

	implementing sustainable development projects which includes also the expenditures for ECSD.
<i>permanent staff</i>	The ECSD does not have a permanent secretariat/staff and technical arrangements of the meetings as well as all secretarial facilities for the Commission are provided by the Estonian Ministry of the Environment.
<i>external consultants</i>	There are no sub-commissions established in the ECSD, but expert working groups can be formed if necessary and specific assessments ordered.

4. Main activities

The major general delegated task of the Commission is to operate sustainable development issues in Estonia as follows:

- To assess and give advise about implementation of sustainable development (SD) policy in Estonia
- To analyse and give advise about energy, agriculture and fishery sector, use and protection of natural and mineral resources, water, territorial marine zone etc
- To provide consultation to the Government, public institutions and local authorities on SD issues
- To make proposals for developing of legislation concerning sustainable development

5. Issues treated

At their regular meetings the Estonian Commission on Sustainable Development has among others discussed the following issues:

- Rio+5 process and proceedings
- Sustainable development and Estonian Regional Policy
- The objectives of the National Environmental Strategy
- Long-term State Strategy for the Fuel and Energy Management
- Preparation of the country position for Kyoto meeting on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Implementation of the Capacity 21 project
- Long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Sector
- Objectives of the National Environmental Action Plan
- Baltic Agenda 21 process
- Frames of the public version Estonian Agenda 21
- Initiating of the Estonian sustainable development strategy

6. Working methods

<i>main emphasis</i>	<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ●
	<i>creativity</i>	● ● ● ●
	<i>interaction</i>	● ● ● ●

The ECSD works on the issues originated by the Government as well as on the items initiated by the Commission itself. Regular meetings of the Commission are held twice a year, but in a specific occasion it is also possible to arrange meetings more frequently.

Decisions of the Commission are based on consensus. Outcome of the Commission work are the minutes of a meeting submitted to the Prime Minister not later than one month after the meeting.

8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

Promotion of the broader view of the sustainable development by the participation of different stakeholders in the network formed in the frames of the Capacity 21 project (see also web site: <http://www.agenda21.ee>).

Initiating the Estonian Agenda 21 process.

9. Most interesting reports / publications

Estonian Achievements in the sustainable development field: 1995 Act on Sustainable Development; 1996 Foundation of the Estonian Commission on Sustainable Development; 1996 Initiating the regional sustainable development process - Baltic Agenda21; 1997 Estonian National Environmental Strategy; 1998 Estonian National Environmental Action Plan; 1999 Public version of the Estonian Agenda21; 2000 Initiating the official Estonian Sustainable Development Strategy - Sustainable Estonia 21.

The priority areas in the future work of the ECSD are as follows:

- Accession to the European Union
- The Estonian Agenda 21 process
- Implementation of the Baltic Agenda 21 sector action plans
- Amending of the Act on Sustainable Development
- Supporting the Local Agenda 21 processes

10. Cooperation with other institutions

Estonian Commission on Sustainable Development has been involved as observer into the European Environmental Advisory Councils and Focal Point activities since 1999.

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Relations

Organisational structure permanent, other
