



RIIGIKANTSELEI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ESTONIAN REVIEW ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA2030



Tallinn, 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ESTONIAN REVIEW ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA2030

Estonian national voluntary review on implementation of the Agenda2030 gives information on progress and the status of sustainable development goals in Estonia. It describes main measures and plans for implementation of 17 sustainable development goals by government and non-government organizations. The Report also gives an overview of Estonian institutional framework for coordination of sustainable development issues and covers the issues of integration of three dimensions of sustainable development, incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks and creating ownership. A preliminary gap analysis of Governments policies and global sustainable development goals was initiated in spring 2016 and was used as relevant input for the Review.

The review was compiled in cooperation of different ministries and Estonian Sustainable Development Commission and will be adopted by the Government in June 2016. The Estonian Review generally follows the common reporting guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF as presented in the annex of the Secretary-General's report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.

Strategic framework

The concept of sustainable development is not new for Estonia. Estonia has [The Sustainable Development Act](#) since 1995. In 2005 the Parliament adopted the [Estonian Sustainable Development Strategy „Sustainable Estonia 21“¹](#), which states 4 main goals for sustainable development in Estonia: 1) Viability of Estonian cultural space; 2) Growth of welfare; 3) Coherent society; 4) Ecological balance. Estonian national sustainable development strategy is implemented by governments' sectoral and thematic strategies and action plans. The national sustainable development strategy is one of the main horizontal strategies that has to be taken into account by designing governments' strategic development plans.

Implementation of sustainable development goals is monitored through agreed set of [sustainable development indicators](#). The set of indicators is renewed in regular basis and covers all the relevant sustainable development related topics. Current set of indicators was agreed in cooperation of Sustainable Development Commission, inter-ministerial sustainable development working group, statistical Office and Government Office. Last report on Estonian sustainable development indicators was published in March 2015.²

Institutional framework

Estonian coordination mechanism for sustainable development issues involves government institutions and non-government organizations from all relevant sustainable development spheres. At the central government level the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development issues is coordinated by [Government Office Strategy Unit](#), which also coordinates Estonian competitiveness strategy Estonia2020 and drafts and monitors the Government Action Plan. This

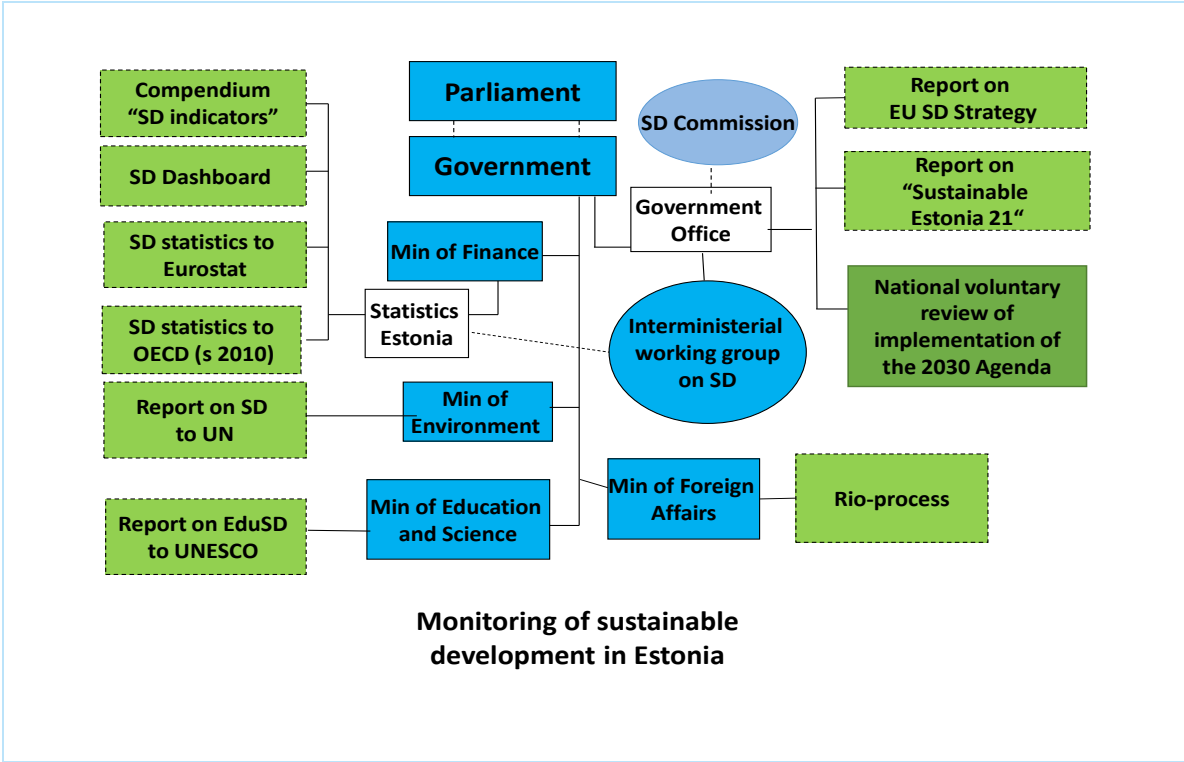
¹ https://riigikantselei.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Failid/estonia_sds_2005.pdf

² https://riigikantselei.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Failid/saastva_arengu_naitajad_1.pdf

helps to maintain the coherence between main horizontal strategies. Estonia plans to use the already functioning national coordination mechanism for sustainable development issues also for coordinating the implementation of Agenda2030.

Estonian Sustainable Development Commission was formed in 1996. It consists of non-governmental roof-organizations, which cover different fields of sustainable development (for example education, environmental protection, culture, children, health, academy, companies, agriculture etc). Commission meets 4-5 times per year and has *thematic discussions* on different sustainable development topics, discusses drafts of sustainable development related strategic action plans before they are adopted by the government and publishes *focus reports* with policy recommendations.

Coordination and monitoring involves also the **inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development**, which involves representatives from all ministries and Estonian statistics office. SD working group works on *ad hoc* basis. For example the working group has participated in composing the set of sustainable development indicators, drafting Estonian positions for SDG negotiations, Estonian review on Agenda2030 implementation for the 2016 HLPF.



Status of implementation of SDG-s in Estonia, best practices and main challenges

The cap analysis of Estonian governments’ policies and SDG-s and mapping of policy measures showed, that Estonian government and non-government sector are already implementing measures and taking actions in the fields of all 17 sustainable development goals. Some targets are covered partially or via international cooperation and few targets were not covered by Estonia (for example combating desertification, protecting ecosystems in mountains).

The mapping exercise indicated the areas where Estonia has already achieved **good results**. In the overall picture the good situation in the biodiversity protection, open and inclusive regulatory

process of the government, quick and extensive access to public services through e-services and high quality and good accessibility of education stand out as Estonian strengths. However the review has also brought out areas where Estonian government needs to continue to put more effort in contributing to the implementation of SDG-s and Estonian own targets. Main **challenges** are in achieving productivity growth, more energy- and resource efficient economy, improvement of subsistence of low income people and tackling the gender pay gap.

Raising general awareness of Agenda2030 and creating ownership of SDG-s also need further attention in Estonia. First conference for introducing the Agenda2030 to wider public was organized already in November 2015, where minister of environment, minister for foreign affairs, high level officials and representatives from enterprises explained global sustainable development goals generally and possibilities for implementing the goals in the example of SDG 12 – sustainable production and consumption. Innovative and comprehensive solutions might be needed for crating the awareness and increasing actions for sustainable development.

Estonian developments in digital innovation have taught valuable **lessons** that could be of use to other countries on how to innovate, not merely in digital sphere. Government's role is to create the right environment for innovations to emerge and spread. The difference in price and accessibility of digital technology solutions comes from policies and legal systems that governments put in place to support digital adaptation. Estonia has managed to introduce digital identity and digital signatures legally equal to handwritten ones thank to the law on digital signatures and making ID-card mandatory for every citizen.

Next steps

First actions connected to the 2030 Agenda have been already started during the compiling process of the national voluntary review. The preliminary **cap analysis** of governments' policies and SDGs has been conducted and its results were used as input for the review.

Estonian Sustainable Development Commission has launched **a review of Estonian National sustainable development strategy "Sustainable Estonia21"** in the light of Agenda2030 and global trends. The analysis will be completed in autumn 2016 and it will give recommendations about renewal of the national sustainable development strategy and its implementation mechanisms.

The **renewal of sustainable development indicators** will be started in 2016. The aim is to enclose indicators that help to measure the achievements in the fields of SDG-s. It allows next indicator based reports on sustainable development to give information about performance in Estonian sustainable development goals and also global SDG-s. New list of indicators will be composed in cooperation of inter-ministerial working group, Estonian Statistics Office and Estonian Sustainable Development Commission.