

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Estonia is a unitary republic with a single-tier subnational structure, which includes 79 municipalities with elected local councils.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 1995, the Sustainable Development Act was adopted. In 2005, the Parliament of Estonia (*Riigikogu*) approved the Estonian sustainable development strategy called “**Sustainable Estonia 21**”. It defines four main goals: the viability of Estonian cultural space, the growth of welfare, coherent society, and ecological balance. Three of them are essentially covered by 17 SDGs, and another one – the viability of the cultural space – is monitored additionally. The SDGs have also been used in the creation of Estonia’s long-term strategy “**Estonia 2035**”, that sets strategic goals for the country and determines the changes necessary to achieve them.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Government Office** coordinates sustainable development issues and the institutional framework. It also coordinates the preparation and monitoring of Estonia’s long-term strategy “Estonia 2035” and the Government’s Action Plan. The **Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development** was established in 1996 as an advisory body to the government. It consists of multiple organizations (research institutions, nature protection, child protection, companies, energy, heritage protection, youth associations, development cooperation roundtable, local governments, etc.). There is also an **inter-ministerial working group** on sustainable development, that consists of representatives of ministries and Statistics Estonia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The preparation of the 2020 VNR was coordinated by the **Government Office** of Estonia. Information for the review was provided by the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development and the many organizations participating in the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development.

1.3 MONITORING

In 2017, the list of Estonia’s sustainable development indicators was updated to be in line with the SDGs. Key indicators are available on the web as a data-driven “statistics tree”,³ which provides an overview of the state of implementation of the goals by all areas of governance. The implementation of the SDGs is also monitored through a regularly issued report on sustainable development indicators prepared by Statistics Estonia in cooperation with the Government Office and ministries.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

LRGs participate in the **Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development**.

LRGs only participated in the 2020 VNR by responding to a survey, also intended for various organizations, including NGOs.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

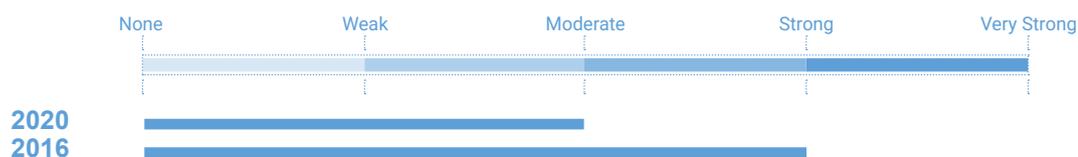
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10647estonia.pdf> (2016);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26284VNR_2020_Estonia_Report.pdf (2020)

3. See it here: <https://tamm.stat.ee/>

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: LRGs only participated in the 2020 VNR by responding to a survey, also intended for various organizations, including NGOs.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs participate in the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2020 VNR, in the subsection on the implementation of SDG11, local governments are mentioned, as well as the reform that reduced their number and their new challenges in this new scheme of decentralization. However, there are not many references to locally led initiatives nor to the details of their participation in the national coordination process and in the VNR itself.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

The city of **Tallinn** has been actively contributing to the creation of opportunities for business development and innovation since the early 2000s. The main focus of the activities has been on the growth of entrepreneurial activity and awareness, the support of development of start-ups, and the creation of a favourable environment for expanding business opportunities.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Ministry of Finance** has supported the preparation of the main strategic documents for directing spatial development for local governments, with the preparation of guidance materials, advice, and support measures.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: In autumn 2020, a biennial Sustainable Development Forum has been held, entitled "**Cities and towns in a changing climate**". Throughout the report, this is one of the few signs of the recognition by the national government of the importance of LRGs in the implementation of the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The VNR highlights national measures to fight poverty among women, in the field of health, education and regarding inequalities in the labor market. There is no reference to initiatives from local governments. Although gender inequalities in the decision-making level and in particular in the representation of women and men in politics are raised, there is no data on the situation at the local level nor on the evolution of these inequality. UN SDG Statistics: 28.6% in 2017.

3.2 COVID 19

The report does not mention the pandemic.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		28.6 (2017)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		6.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2019)

4. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/est>