

# **Study Tour Concept: Estonia – Monitoring and Reporting Systems for National Development Strategy**

## **Objective:**

The main goal of this study tour is to gain insights into Estonia's advanced systems for monitoring and reporting the implementation of its National Development Strategy (NDS), with a focus on how other strategic frameworks (such as regional development and digitalization) are integrated and synchronized with the NDS. The tour will explore the methodologies and digital tools Estonia uses to ensure alignment and effective monitoring at all levels of governance (national, regional, and local) in the process of monitoring of NDS. The focus will also be on understanding how Estonia harmonizes multiple strategies into a unified system for sustainable development, which can be applied to the Republic of North Macedonia's NDS.

## **Key Areas of Focus:**

1. Monitoring and Reporting on the National Development Strategy (NDS) of the Republic of North Macedonia:
  - Understanding Estonia's Approach: Learn how Estonia monitors and reports on its own national development strategy ("Estonia 2035") and how its approach can be adapted to the Republic of North Macedonia's NDS. The emphasis will be on understanding how Estonia integrates the monitoring of other strategies with the NDS.
  - Digital Tools and Systems: Explore how Estonia uses digital platforms for real-time data collection, monitoring, and reporting on national development projects. The focus will be on ensuring alignment with strategic goals, both for NDS and related strategies.
2. Synchronization and Integration of Other Strategies with the National Development Strategy:
  - Integration with Regional Development and Digitalization Strategies: Discuss how Estonia integrates its national development strategy with other key strategies (e.g., regional development, digitalization), ensuring there is no overlap or misalignment. This includes exploring how Estonia ensures coherence across these strategies.
  - Alignment of Local Government with National Goals: Review how local governments and municipalities in Estonia contribute to national development goals and how digital tools help ensure that regional and local strategies are synchronized with the NDS.
3. Digitalization of Monitoring and Reporting Tools:
  - Use of e-Government Tools: Learn how Estonia's e-government infrastructure supports the monitoring and reporting of its development strategies, enabling seamless communication and coordination across all levels of government.
  - Data-Driven Decision Making: Study Estonia's use of data analytics in its monitoring systems to track the progress of national, regional, and local development projects, making it possible to make real-time adjustments to strategies based on accurate data.
4. Cross-Institutional Cooperation and Coordination:
  - Collaboration Between Key Institutions: Explore how Estonia ensures that its ministries, such as the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs collaborate effectively to synchronize national, regional, and local strategies.

- Ensuring Alignment: Understand how Estonia uses digital tools and collaborative frameworks to avoid fragmentation or duplication of efforts across various development strategies.
5. Best Practices in Public Sector Digitalization:
- Transparency and Accountability: Learn how Estonia uses digital tools to ensure transparency in the implementation of its national development strategy, and how these tools support public accountability.
  - Lessons for the Republic of North Macedonia: Understand the lessons learned from Estonia's approach to integrating and synchronizing multiple strategies and how these lessons can be applied to the monitoring and reporting systems of North Macedonia's NDS.

#### **Key Themes for Discussion:**

1. Integration of Other Strategies with the National Development Strategy (NDS):
  - How Estonia successfully integrates and synchronizes its national development strategy with regional development, digitalization, and other strategic frameworks, ensuring alignment and avoiding duplication.
  - Discuss the methodologies used to align regional and local strategies with the overarching NDS.
2. Digital Tools for Monitoring and Reporting:
  - How Estonia uses digital tools to monitor and report on the implementation of its national development strategy, including real-time data collection and analysis.
  - The role of these digital tools in supporting decision-making and ensuring efficient alignment across different levels of government.
3. Stakeholder Coordination and Involvement:
  - How Estonia ensures coordination between ministries, local governments, and civil society stakeholders to support the synchronization of strategies.
  - How digital platforms and e-government tools facilitate this cross-institutional collaboration.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

- A deeper understanding of how Estonia integrates various strategies (including regional development, digitalization, etc.) with the National Development Strategy, using digital tools to ensure alignment at all levels of government.
- Insights into best practices for monitoring and reporting systems that can be applied to the National Development Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia, particularly focusing on digital tools and cross-governmental coordination.
- Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange between the involved ministries and local governments in the Republic of North Macedonia, with a clearer framework for implementing and monitoring the NDS and related strategies.