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Tegemist on perioodi 2021-2021 struktuuritoetuste rakenduskava tööversiooniga. Iga peatüki juures on selle koostamisaeg. Avaliku konsultatsiooni alguseks (u 23.08) dokument tõlgitakse ja lisatakse keskkonnamõju strateegilise aruande eelnõu juurde eestikeelsena.

1. PROGRAMME STRATEGY: MAIN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES [30 000 CHARACTERS]

Horizontal aspects

The Estonian macroeconomic environment [tekst 2.juuli seisuga]¹

Government expenditure in Estonia (39.3% of GDP in 2018) is below the EU average (45.7% of GDP in 2018). Similarly, Estonian public service expenditure (33.8% of GDP in 2018), or government expenditure less investments, is below the EU average (43.0% of GDP in 2018) – Estonia has the 4th lowest overall public service expenditure in the EU. The Estonian state budget is sustainable and macroeconomically balanced, but GDP growth estimates for the next two years are low, and by 2030 the economic growth potential will drop to below two percent due to a decline in working age population. According to the Estonian State Finance Outlook 2070², the most important factors influencing Estonian macroeconomy in the coming decades will be demographic changes - a declining and aging population. While the population decline inhibits economic development, it will be counterbalanced by an increase in available capital and labour productivity. Labour productivity growth is expected to exceed wage growth until 2035, but these should equalize after 2035. The employment rate is expected to slope down until 2070, and decrease by 4% by 2035. The number of employed is projected to decline by 25% by 2070, which means that there will be 135,000 persons less on the labour market. On the other hand, the decrease in working age population will result in the unemployment rate dropping to 5.1% by 2035. Assuming that policies and trends remain as they are today, Estonia is projected to have an average economic growth of close to 2.1% over the next 15 years. Based on 2019 data, economic growth is expected to have a declining trend, reaching 1% by 2050, after which there will be a temporary increase in growth due to population dynamics, with the period once again ending with growth slowing to 1.2%. The analysis of primary development needs for Estonia was prepared in the course of planning the national long-term development strategy “Estonia 2035”, accounting for global trends, state finance outlook and current state of affairs in Estonia.

Smart governance [tekst 2.aprilli seisuga]

Research and expert advice is used very little for policymaking. The researchers lack the resources and motivation to contribute to policymaking. Based on an OECD assessment, the implementation of a policy impact assessment system in Estonia is problematic. **Communication between government agencies is failure-prone and inefficient**, and out of the 418 proposals to reduce internal red tape, gathered by the Zero-Bureaucracy task force, only 192 have been implemented. According to OECD, the work of government agencies is mediocre and not up to expectations. **Public open and big data have not been used** or published significantly to generate added value. Furthermore, the quality and availability of public services varies between ministries and regions. In terms of developing e-services, Estonia needs to focus on improving existing services - **the quality of e-services varies, some services are not available online and others are difficult to find** - and the e-services provided by municipalities. In the IMD World Talent Ranking, which measures countries' ability to retain and attract talent, Estonia holds 28th position among 63 developed countries, which means that **additional investment is needed in programs to bring in talents and foreign investment** (e.g. by advertising the opportunities Estonia provides). With rising labour costs and energy and raw material prices, Estonia has become less attractive to foreign investors. **The legal system and tax environment is not flexible** enough to allow for changes required by new business models and innovation in various areas. Strategic goals are held back by **special interests and lack of state budget flexibility**, with approximately 80% of the budget allocated by legislation. **Fragmented development**

¹ Siin ja edaspidi on lisatud täpsustused, millise kuupäeva seisuga kirjutatud tekstiga on tegemist. Enamike peatükkide täiendamise ja parendamisega tegeletakse pidevalt ning nende valmimisel ja Euroopa Komisjonile esitamise järgselt lisatakse need siia dokumenti uuendatud kujul.

²https://www.riigikantslei.ee/sites/default/files/riigikantslei/strateegiaburoo/Eesti2035/riigirahanduse_pikk_vaade_aastani_2070_1.pdf

planning between various levels of public administration does not support comprehensive and critical decision-making on the state level. This confuses the role distribution of central government and local governments in various fields of responsibility. **In order to promote knowledge-based policymaking, training is required** for commissioning research and interpreting the results. On the other hand, this means that decisions must be made more transparent and comprehensible. **It is important to improve formal coordination and information mobility between various parties (research institutions, the state, entrepreneurs and the non-profit sector)**. In strategic management, priorities must be set to manage public resources as efficiently as possible, which will be supported by the development of a long-term strategy on the state level. Information mobility issues must be resolved in order to reduce internal red tape and improve communication between government agencies. In order to guide and conduct regional development, cooperation between state and local governments and communities should be improved. **Better-integrated solutions with user-centric design should be developed for equalizing the level of and access to public services**. Public institutions involved in the development of legal and tax environment should change their structure and working arrangement in order to be better prepared for new forms on business and work and accommodate these quicker. **In order to strengthen societal cohesion and the civil society, investments in support systems are required** to engage citizen activists in local governance for reaching common goals. This is contingent on raising youth awareness and promoting participatory democracy among the youth. Maintaining and improving Estonia's international position **requires investments in branding** (highlighting the strengths of Estonia) and **utilization of existing solutions** to promote the economy and other areas (e.g. the e-residency program). This development need is tied to the 2019 country-specific Council recommendation number 2 - fostering research and innovation.

Smarter Estonia [tekst 2.aprilli seisuga]

Providing preconditions for smart growth and entrepreneurship

In 2019, labour productivity was 78.8% of EU average and the 2020 goal (80%) remains unfulfilled. Based on 2017 data, the manufacturing sector constitutes 19% of jobs and 15.7% of GDP, while the productivity in that sector is merely 50% of the EU average. This implies a low position in the international value chain and mostly non-knowledge-intensive work in this sector. A similar gap with the EU average is seen in the IT and communications sectors. The number of startups and the ability to raise investments has increased, but **university-business cooperation remains low**. Small percentage of **companies invest in research and development** (286 companies in 2019) and the sums invested are not large - a total of 246.8 million euros in 2019 (0.88% from GDP). **The main reasons why companies are not investing in development have to do with risk aversion, long return periods and a general lack of interest**. Estonian private sector's relative research and development expenditure (0.88% of GDP in 2019) lags behind the EU average and there is little cooperation between businesses and research institutions. In the private sector, the number of research and development workers is low compared to EU average (in 2018, EU average per 1000 employers 6,3 in Estonia 3,4). The valorisation of local resources such as wood, food, minerals and secondary raw materials is limited, the resources are often exported with the low value added and on a low levels of value chain. While Estonia retains a leading position in Europe in terms of digital public services, **the integration of digital technologies in private sector is lacking (20th position in the EU)**. **Productivity can be improved by well-planned investment subsidies** to small and medium enterprises, in order to reduce risk and remove barriers to climbing the global value chain. **Support for digital technologies and automation can help cope with increasing labour shortage**. In order to increase private sector research and development and promote cooperation, **high export-potential companies should be provided with support in areas from prototyping to product development**. Due to lack of cooperation between private sector and research institutions, it makes sense to support mobility among researchers and companies' product development teams. Furthermore, research and development could be supported by providing companies with access to scientific information, research data and results as well as research infrastructure to use in business development. Competing abroad requires a strong external network, in order to help Estonian companies gain ground on new markets. Furthermore, **various training opportunities should be provided** to improve companies' competitiveness. In order to create a credible and sustainable (climate neutral) consumer image, **attitudes should be shaped** via training and

outreach. Since entrepreneurship and starting up a business can be difficult outside larger cities (lack of capital and labour), **new and established regional enterprises should be advised** and activities should be conducted to increase entrepreneurial awareness, e.g. by supporting startups. Innovative startups need to be agile to quickly grow and test their ideas, so startups need seed investment. This development need is tied to the 2019 country-specific Council recommendation number 3, particularly the proposal to foster research and innovation while taking into account regional differences. Investments in research and innovation increase productivity and enable local manufacturers to climb the value chain.

In addition, boosting private sector innovation and R&D requires a **relevant and flexible RD&I supply**, including competent researchers and top-level research teams in the fields matching with the current and future needs of the private sector. Despite the high level of Estonian research quality, there is a gap between research system and the needs of the economy and society. There is a need to **reach out the R&D knowledge and services and to extend the research capacities** towards the needs of the business sector and society at large. Securing RD&I supply needs to be achieved by involving different players (R&D and higher education institutions, companies and business associations, ministries and public sector institutions, etc) and actions, and focus on increasing the attractiveness, competitiveness and sustainability of the research system and diversification of the applied research areas, supporting capacity of transferring technologies, developing skills and services to commercialise research results, and developing the capacity of research and higher education institutions to improve the commercial viability and market relevance of their research projects as well as 'profile' R&D, making it better adapted to innovation and the production of human capital to meet national needs.

According to reports and assessment, **weaknesses in the RD&I governance, coordination and innovation ecosystems** are also considered a challenge. It is necessary to create synergy and increase efficient cooperation and coordination between the ministries, implementation agencies, research institutions, enterprises and other participants, including via entrepreneurial discovery processes. There is a need to **increase the public sector's RD&I capacity**, the capacity to integrate RD&I into the national policies and to set the demand for RD&I together with a supporting environment for it. More attention should be paid to building the **networks and cooperation platforms** for the participants of the Estonian 'innovation system' and to strengthening business-academia connections. To address these problems, we have new national Research, Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship strategy for the period of 2021-2035. The national **smart specialisation governance** will be re-designed and integrated into the overall **governance system of the national RDI and entrepreneurship strategy (TAIE)**.

A greener and more connected Estonia [tekst 2.juuli seisuga]

Maintaining a diverse natural environment

Estonia is home to 60 endangered habitat types as designated on the EU level, as well as 100 species listed in addenda to the Habitats Directive. **Half of the habitats and a third of the species are at risk**, and their survival in Estonia is not assured. **The Estonian economy emits three times the EU average amount of greenhouse gases per euro of GDP (2015 data)**. In 2018, the total greenhouse gas emissions of Estonia was 19,97 kt of CO₂ eq., GHG emissions have decreased by 0,9 kt of CO₂ eq. While large power producers are reducing their emissions, **emissions from industry and agriculture are on the rise overall**. People's environmental awareness is on the rise, as is environmentally conscious behaviour, but **consumer behaviour has not been affected by these green values and attitudes**. Compared to 2000, waste generation in Estonia has increased almost two-fold. Overall, waste recovery rate is on the rise, but is still insufficient (13% in 2000 vs 38% in 2018), because **in 2018 a mere 28% of household waste was recycled**, with 50% of the rest of household waste burned for energy and 10% landfilled. The low recycling rate increases environmental burden in Estonia. Point source pollution and diffuse pollution are having an impact on aquatic ecosystems. The pollution may be exacerbated by increasingly intensive agriculture, which has an effect of the state of soil and water biodiversity. In Estonia, **45% (2019 data) of surface water bodies and 26% (2020 data) of groundwater bodies are in less than good condition**. None of Estonian coastal waters are in good or excellent condition - most are in poor condition. The main factors impacting their condition are invasive species, overfishing, eutrophication, pollutants and marine debris. **The Baltic Sea is a busy shipping area, so maintaining marine and shore cleanup capabilities is of vital importance. Urbanization, transportation and manufacturing are having an impact on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions in different areas of Estonia. During the heating period in**

many urban areas fine particle and benzo(a)pyrene levels are often exceeding the limit values. Air pollution has health effects and causes respiratory illness, resulting in approximately 600 premature deaths per year in Estonia, in addition to external costs due to premature mortality and increased bed-days. In order to promote environmentally conscious behaviour and values, **people should be informed and educated, and availability of environmental data should be improved**. In terms of natural resource utilization, **environmentally friendly alternatives should be preferred**, taking into account all potential environmental effects and conducting environmental impact assessments (public sector decisions). **Development and implementation of new green technologies should be supported**. In order to promote circular economy and reduce landfilling, integral planning and development is required on all levels associated with circular economy - the state, municipalities, manufacturers, merchants and consumers. Decision-making **should take into account EU and global trends associated with curbing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving climate neutrality**. Efforts should be made jointly with other Baltic Sea countries to improve the environmental condition of the sea. The 2019 country-specific Council recommendation highlights a need for Estonia to focus on sustainable transport and energy infrastructure, including resource and energy efficiency, which is associated with reducing airborne emissions and implementing green actions.

Developing high-quality spaces and infrastructure according to society's needs

Based on published population projections, Estonia has a declining population unless current trends are reversed, which, along with aging and urbanization, will result in an increase of residential greenfield sites outside major centres. **In 2017, 69.3% of Estonia's population were living in cities and towns**, and Estonia is one of the fastest urbanizing OECD countries. Regardless, **investment plans are not coordinated between the state and municipalities** and spatial planning assumes growth without regard to projections or urbanization. The principle of accessibility, crucial for an aging population, and risks associated with climate change, are mostly not accounted for by building and infrastructure developers. **In Estonia, energy used by buildings accounts for over 50% of total energy use - 10% more than the EU average**. Domestic energy use accounts for over 40% of total energy use in Estonia. In recent years, Estonia's international public transit gateway structure has remained unchanged (Port of Tallinn, Tallinn Airport, airports in Riga and Helsinki) and there has been **little improvement of local transit network interconnections with the TEN-T** Trans-European Transport Network. However, internationalization and competitiveness are increasingly dependent on interconnections to other European centres, and the number of direct services from Tallinn Airport is on the rise. In terms of interconnections, companies need competitive (in terms of speed, price and interconnectivity) logistics chains. Freight on railroads and through harbours has increased and road freight is decreasing. The Estonian road network includes approximately 40,000 km of public roads, of which **25% are in a poor or very poor condition** according to 2017 data. **Most people use a car for transportation** - in recent years, the number of public transit users (20% in 2017), walkers (16% in 2017) and bicyclers (3% in 2017) has declined. 76% of rural and urban residents have access to public transit, but the temporal and spatial distances and lack of interconnectivity between modes of transportation (**no common ticketing system**) does not encourage public transit use. The proportion of hybrids (both conventional and natural gas hybrids), natural gas powered cars and electric cars in the total fleet is low (1.8%). The energy, public water supply and internet infrastructures are problematic. Security of Estonia's energy supply is declining and **energy production is largely based on a single resource** - the utilization of diverse energy sources is still not sufficient to ensure energy security. Diversification of energy sources is **limited by grid capacity and the general condition of infrastructure**. **The public water supply does not conform to standards for 1% of consumers** and sewage collection and treatment does not conform to standards in 9% of communities with 2000 or more residents. No solutions are provided in smaller communities. Outside of urban areas, there is still a lack of access to high-speed internet. On the other hand, **there is increasing demand for access to high-speed internet infrastructure from new companies and the proliferation of various kinds of remote work**. In 2016, 11.5% of all Estonian dedicated internet lines provided a speed of at least 100 Mbs. Comprehensive spatial planning requires an overarching system of planning and state development plans, which would **take into account societal needs and climate change**. This would enable development in accordance with local interests and strategic needs of the state. Furthermore, meeting the EU climate target for 2030 requires a 13% reduction of domestic, agricultural, waste management and transport (excluding aviation) CO₂ emissions. As personal car use is one of the major sources of pollution, it is necessary to **develop transit**

systems - a common ticketing system and on-demand transportation in rural areas. Enhancing transportation connections requires cooperation with major partners and markets for improving air connections and freight, and completion of the trans-EU transportation network (TEN-T). The climate goals are further supported by **creation of alternative fuel infrastructure for transportation, and wider utilization of renewables.** This will have the additional effect of supporting energy security, which furthermore requires power grid infrastructure development, EU-level cooperative efforts and support for implementation of alternative (including renewable) energy sources, to reduce the environmental footprint of electric power generation. Human environment planning **needs to favour healthy environments and sustainable, smart and novel solutions** - greening, biodiversification, rainwater reuse, completion of water infrastructure (water quality), construction of bike and pedestrian paths, parcel robots, autonomous vehicles. An agile legal environment is needed to support novel technological solutions. **Application of universal design methodology** would ensure that services, spaces and buildings all over Estonia remain usable and accessible as the population ages. Furthermore, **construction of access networks to the next-generation broadband network is needed, along with development of 5G infrastructure,** in order to improve e-service accessibility and support entrepreneurs in sparsely populated areas. This development need is also referenced in the 2019 country-specific Council recommendations to focus investment in the following areas: sustainable transport and energy infrastructure and resource and energy efficiency, while taking into account regional disparities.

Safety and security

Municipalities, public establishments and regions are not sufficiently prepared for crises, including those which could result from climate change. **There is a lack of situational preparedness and knowing what and how to do in crisis situations** - for example, what to do in case of a long-term power or water outage, and how to prepare. The population is not aware of how to act in crisis situations. A further danger is their tendency to underestimate crises, which can result in increased damage in a real crisis. **In sparsely populated areas, providing security can be expensive and complicated,** requiring further development of cooperation with communities. Estonia still has **large socioeconomical and regional inequalities,** so community support might not be reliable or effective in an actual emergency. In 2019, the percentage of people living in relative poverty was 15,7% (absolute 2,1%) in Harju county and 30,3% in Valga county. In cities, the percentage of people involved in communal life is lower, and **deepening polarization in the society can lead to escalation of value conflicts, including destabilization of border regions.** The pace of technological development, digital switchover and increase in e-services, as well as the large variety of cyber threats require **increased investment in cyber defence capabilities and e-services (vital systems and services).** Because of Estonia's regional particularities, communities should be supported in taking more responsibility for providing security. This means **increased utilization of volunteers for providing security and improved cooperation between levels of government.** In order for community-based security to work, **it is important to facilitate integration of various community groups** via an open cultural space. Similarly, for providing internal security it is necessary to **better prepare for mitigating external factors,** such as weather phenomena or potential migration pressure. The need to increase community integration for improved security is also referred to in the 2019 country-specific Council recommendations, which highlight improving the adequacy of the social safety net and access to social services.

A more social Estonia [tekst 30.06 seisuga]

Successful adaptation to population dynamics

Based on the Statistics Estonia estimation, **by 2035 the population of Estonia will drop to approximately 1.3 million.** The proportion of elderly will increase to 25% and **the working age population will decrease by 100,000.** The crude birth rate has increased, but based on the 2035 population estimate, the proportion of persons aged 14 and below will drop to 14.6% (16.3% in 2018). Domestic urbanization (especially among the youth) will have a substantial effect on the regional labour market potential. For instance, while Tartu county will maintain its age profile over the next 10 years, **Ida-Viru and Hiiu counties will have less than 6 people reach working age per 10 new retirees.** Ida-Viru county, South-Eastern and Central Estonia and remote rural areas will be most affected by population changes. The declining and aging population will have a direct effect on Estonian economic competitiveness and administrative capacity. **An increasing labour shortage is an issue for both the private (particularly manufacturing) and public sectors** (e.g. education and healthcare, social welfare, law enforcement). Increased attention should be paid to groups

(e.g. women with tertiary education) who have a greater than average difference between the desired and actual number of children. Other important measures include development of support services for families and new ways to combine work and family life, and promotion of positive parenting principles. Due to the aging population, focus should be put on **enabling the elderly** (e.g. lifelong learning actions). **Promoting intergenerational cooperation and involving the elderly to a greater degree (e.g. in volunteer work and community activities)** will help make use of their maturity and life experience. Additional to activation measures the social welfare infrastructure for elderly needs to be enhanced further. Investing into the supportive flexible arranged social services by focus on investing supported independent living enabling environment and participation in general is necessary (e.g. increasing home based social services, accessibility). Flexible services, health investments and anti-ageism efforts may help promote continued employment among retirees. It is important to improve **health** (especially among middle-aged and elderly men) in order to reduce premature morbidity, mortality and disability, and the risk of unemployment associated with the latter. Due to the declining working aged population, measures to help **unemployed or inactive groups** (persons with decreased ability and health issues, NEET youth, caregivers) enter to the labour market should be prioritized. It is important to **enable and engage the youth** by supporting their development and letting them shape their own lives, promoting public and civil society activity and helping them avoid social exclusion (becoming NEET). The current low level on unemployment (including long-term unemployment) (4.4% in 2019) is largely due to the current period of economic expansion, which masks **inherent issues in the labour market**. Regionally, Ida-Viru county clearly stands out with unemployment (8,7% in 2019) double the Estonian average. **The projected decline in the number of employed persons by 2035 can be mitigated** by supporting education of new generations before they become working aged, by further raising the retirement age and by promoting equalization of Estonian and non-Estonian employment levels. These three actions combined may mitigate the decrease in employed persons by up to 43,000 people. This highlights the importance of **successful integration of non-Estonian speaking population** and targeted actions to remove obstacles preventing non-Estonian speakers from joining the labour market (insufficient command of Estonian, reduced participation in lifelong learning, regional imbalances, societal attitudes). Another issue to discuss is the degree to which migrant labour could be used to alleviate labour shortages in certain sectors. A smart and integration-focused migration policy should be applied, which would focus not only on foreign skilled and unskilled labour, but also support Estonian nationals wishing to return. Technological development and changing business models provide opportunities for making use of various **digital solutions** (automation of menial tasks, digital platforms) **and new ways of doing work** (e.g. remote work, digital nomadism). Increased application of digital solutions helps promote employment in rural areas and bring more differently abled persons to the labour market. This development need is tied to the 2019 country-specific Council recommendation number 2 and the challenges highlighted in it, in particular skills shortages and mismatches, and labour market trends and the decrease in the working-age population, which present long-term challenges to the education and training system.

Reducing inequality

In 2018, the overall relative poverty rate in Estonia was 21,7% (approximately 295,000 people), of whom 50% were elderly (relative poverty rate 47.5%) or unemployed (relative poverty rate 52.3%) and 15.9% were children (aged 0–17). This is subject to regional imbalances (including within counties) – in Northern Estonia, the relative poverty rate was 15,8%, while in North-Eastern Estonia it was 35%. Of the disabled in Estonia, numbering 156,729 at the end of 2018, 46.6% were living in relative poverty in 2017. The same indicator among persons with partial loss of capacity to work was 35.1%. In 2017, 44,000 people lived in **absolute poverty**. **Health indicators vary regionally and based on gender and education** - in 2017, women's life expectancy and healthy life expectancy exceeded those of men by 8.7 years and 4.5 years respectively, and regionally the Southern Estonian counties and Ida-Viru county had a life expectancy lower by 10 years compared to the rest of Estonia. For persons with primary education, the average life expectancy is 8.4 years less than those with tertiary education. **The greatest gap on the labour market is between Estonians and non-Estonians, due to the latter's insufficient Estonian skills**. In 2018, the nationality-based difference in employment rate was 4.3% for men and 8.6% for women. Compared to Estonian-speaking non-Estonians (7.4%), the unemployment level of Estonians was almost two times lower

(4.4%) and almost three times lower compared to non-Estonian-speaking non-Estonians (13.0%). In terms of professional roles, there were 1.6 times more native Estonians among executives and senior specialists, as opposed to native Russians. Similar differences exist in participation in lifelong learning: in 2018, 22.4% of Estonians participated, compared to 14.1% of non-Estonians. **Regional unemployment rates differ vastly:** in 2018, Harju and Tartu counties had the lowest ones (4.4%) and Ida-Viru and Valga counties had the highest ones (11.1% and 9.1% respectively). **There is a major gender pay gap in Estonia** (17,19% in 2019), with a wide range of reasons behind it (including gender segregation of educational and labour market choices, unequal representation in decision-making and sharing of care burden, discriminatory practices at workplace, etc.), although it has decreased somewhat over the past six years. Regionally, Ida-Viru county has the largest gender pay gap (27.9%), and in terms of sectors, the pay gap is largest in finance and insurance. **There is age-based discrimination**, with people aged 50+ earning on average 20% less than younger workers. 36% of early retirees say it was because they lost their job and were unable to find new employment. **For disabled persons, the rate of material deprivation (18.6% in 2018) is close to double that of the rest of population (9.9% in 2018).** Studies conducted over the past few years show that persons with special needs have insufficient access to public services (e.g. assisted transportation, access-to-work services, lack of support persons, family-oriented support measures). **According to the Estonian Social Survey 2016, approximately 65,000 people were assisting or taking care of a household member.** Of the family members being assisted or taken care of, approximately 5500 were under 18, and 59,500 were 18 or older. **Close to 20,000 people provided extensive care (20 or more hours per week) to a family member (a child or an adult).** Persons taking care of their family members have a heavy burden to bear both in terms of their own efforts and the price of nursing or personal care services. Municipalities carry a weight of offering necessary aid and social services for those in need, but the level and accessibility of the relevant local services vary across regions. Supporting social services delivery, enhancement and investing into necessary infrastructure is utmost important not only for informal carers, but for wider population and balanced regional development as well. In order to alleviate unemployment and associated issues (poverty, economic stratification, social inequality), **regional and local entrepreneurship should be incentivized** and competency and/or product development and incubation centres should be developed, in order to stimulate creation of new businesses and therefore new jobs. Support and advisory services to entrepreneurs motivate and **help them start new businesses in rural areas.** Development of the means for remote work in sparsely populated regions, digital platforms etc, helps reduce regional disparities. **It is important to empower the unemployed and the economically inactive.** Potential measures to increase the employment rate and reduce regional imbalances include regional financial incentives for job creation, regional training programs and various mobility measures. In order to support the participation of the elderly in the labour market, **measures should be developed for changing employers' attitudes and empowering social partners.** Reduction of the gender gap **requires increased awareness of the existence, causes and problems with gender inequality, and the need and possibilities to promote gender equality**, among employers, but also among government and municipality levels policy makers, and in educational institutions and the media. In order to improve gender balance at all levels and reduce gender segregation, in particular in the fields of STEM and EHW, **knowledge-based cooperation between educational institutions, employment agencies and employers** is required, as well as new measures to promote change in peoples' attitudes and behaviours and to support reduction of dissemination of gender stereotypes. Persons with insufficient knowledge of Estonian should receive additional support, such as on-the-job language training, mentoring and counselling services. **Support for persons with special needs should be focused on solutions which promote active participation and economic self-sufficiency** (e.g. labour market services) and these should preferably be provided both on a personal and a community level. An integrated approach using technological solutions and universal design helps increase the positive impact. Reduction of administrative burden and implementation of preventive activities **crucially requires community empowerment and improved competencies among caretakers** and additionally **support for investment in new technologies and innovative solutions.** These measures would help improve the quality of caretaking services as a whole and deinstitutionalize services. **A support system and counselling for caretakers would help bring caretakers back into the labour market.** This development need is tied to the 2019 country-specific Council recommendation number 2 and specifically the proposal to improve the adequacy

of the social safety net and access to affordable and integrated social services, which is subject to large regional disparities. A further development need concerns gender and age based discrimination, including the gender pay gap, which is tied to a proposal in the country-specific recommendation number 2 to reduce the gender pay gap and improve wage transparency.

Improving health and increasing healthy life expectancy

Estonian healthy life expectancy is significantly below the European average and Estonia has **one of the largest gender gaps in Europe**. Also of note are **significant regional differences within Estonia** – the healthy life expectancy in Southern Estonian counties and Ida-Viru county is almost 10 years below that in Northern and Western Estonia. **Level of education** has a significant impact on health behaviour – in 2017, life expectancy for men with a primary education was 9.5 years below that for men with a tertiary education; for women that same number was 7.2 years. Risky or negligent health behaviour is **one of the main reasons for premature mortality and morbidity** - in 2017, nearly 53% of all cases of premature mortality and morbidity were attributable to avoidable risk factors or risk behaviour. Due to unbalanced nutrition and insufficient exercise, currently **over half of the Estonian population is overweight, including a quarter of 1st graders**. Poor health awareness and unhealthy choices put extra burden on both the Estonian healthcare and social welfare system. Estonia has a high prevalence of **mental health disorders** compared to the rest of Europe. Mood and anxiety disorders are on the rise among both children and adults. **The number of workplace accidents** has increased by 25% over the past five years. The education system, youth policy and sports and culture have a significant influence on people's **awareness and values, which have an important role** in reducing unhealthy behaviours. Furthermore, **mental health and wellness should be promoted both at school and at work**. Prevention of unhealthy choices, early discovery of diseases and stopping unhealthy behaviour requires **an integrated and effective multidisciplinary approach, case-by-case support, individually coordinated service provision, legislation to support prevention, and innovative solutions**, in order to help people live a long and healthy life and reduce the load on the healthcare and social welfare system caused by preventable diseases. Besides personal choices regarding behaviour and consumption, natural and artificial environments are the main **health factors**. It is important to consider the surrounding environment (including workplaces and the quality of water and air), also any effects climate change may have on people's health. Infrastructure should be created to support healthy living. Particular attention should be paid to prevention of decreased ability and disability by providing **safe work environments** and effective occupational health services. **Health services and social services are not sufficiently integrated** or coordinated, and their availability and quality vary greatly among regions. Co-payments for caretaking services and the workload of people taking care of disabled family members are disproportionately high. Furthermore, the healthcare and social care sectors are faced with a lack of qualified personnel, which is especially acute in certain regions. Healthcare services, social services and, in the case of children and youth, educational support services, need closer integration. **Improving cooperation between different levels of the healthcare system** would help improve the quality and availability of medical services. The healthcare infrastructure network needs further alignment with demographic changes, in order to efficiently provide high-quality medical services. There remains a need to invest in integrating various health information systems and improving internal data quality, in order to further increase efficiency of healthcare system administration. This development need is also referenced in the 2019 country-specific Council recommendations, which highlight the need to improve the adequacy of the social safety net and access to affordable and integrated social services.

Creating flexible and need-based lifelong learning opportunities

Estonia is faced with the challenge of a relatively large number of people with no professional education or training and 18-24-year-old youths with low education and who are not in school. For Estonian society, the high dropout rate from education system brings long-term social risks and wastes precious human capital, IT also points to a lack of support for students to make meaningful choices and transitions. **Because the current education system is not sufficiently flexible and student-focused and there exist great regional and gender-based differences in choosing learning paths** for secondary and tertiary education, especially in the case of vocational secondary education, it is important to focus on providing a **student-centered and individually flexible** education system and developing **personalized**

education. An excellent education and extracurricular activity system, along with engaging youth work activities would develop **the next generation's social capital and future competitiveness** and act as an **important factor shaping their value system**. It is important to **actively engage youth in society**, increase social cohesion and promote their affinity to Estonia. While in general Estonia has excellent educational indicators compared to other countries, there exist significant variations both **regionally and between Estonian and Russian schools**. In order to reduce polarization, it is crucial that the current education system be reorganized into a **co-learning school which promotes integration and cohesion from early childhood**. The Estonian labour market is characterized by both **structural unemployment and structural labour shortage**, arising not only from regional differences, but also workseekers' qualifications and competencies being mismatched with employers' needs. According to employers, the private sector is **missing skilled labour**, which is partially a regional issue. On one hand this is due to an inflexible school system where **training does not conform to the rapidly changing demand** on the labour market. On the other hand it is difficult to find skilled workers in smaller towns. **Tertiary and vocational graduates' skills continue to be mismatched** with employers' expectations and **the dropout rate** is still high, particularly in vocational education and training (in tertiary education, the dropout rate is 14.5%, while in vocational training it is 19,2% or approximately 5000 students per year). Additionally, the sociodemographic groups who need lifelong learning the most, namely the **less educated and older persons**, participate less. **Implementation of flexible lifelong learning** integrated with continued employment is an important pillar of education in the future. While participation in lifelong learning has increased significantly in Estonia, more attention needs to be paid to providing various flexible solutions in both tertiary and vocational education, and **opportunities for on-the-job training**. Promoting and extensively providing on-the-job training and retraining helps reduce workers' unemployment risk and social, regional, national and gender-based inequalities. The EU's move to a resource-efficient, circular, digitised and climate neutral economy and the wide deployment of artificial intelligence and robotics requires additional support to adults training. Thus, all people need access to a broad set of skills, combining digital with job specific, green and transversal skills. This requires opportunities for constant **lifelong upskilling and valuing lifelong learning in the society**. In higher education there is a need to build additional capacity in the fields, where there will be a lack of labour force in near future according to the labour market needs forecasting system. Besides building teaching capacity it is also necessary to improve flexibility and labour market relevance of the programmes. In terms of higher skills and doctoral studies, both the research and the study program should be better aligned with needs of the economy and the society. The goal of the doctorate program should be to prepare a new generation of scientists, teachers and senior specialists in both the public and the private sectors. Thus far, there has been little demand for specialists with a doctoral degree outside of research institutions. Better integration of doctorate programs and research with the private sector's needs requires systematic **multidisciplinary cooperation, improved mobility** and enhanced incentives. This development need is also referenced in the 2019 country-specific Council recommendation number 2, which highlights the need to address skills shortages and improve the capacity and labour market relevance of the education and training system.

For the Investment for Jobs and Growth goal:

Table 1

Policy objective or JTF specific objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority	Justification (summary) [2 000 characters per specific objective]
PO1 [tekst 2.04 seisuga]	i) enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of	The interventions focus on increasing the use and effect of the RD&I results and spreading innovation further in the society contributing to the development of the national smart specialisation areas defined in the national RDI and entrepreneurship strategy. The following challenges will be addressed within three directions:

	<p>advanced technologies;</p>	<p>1. Private sector's innovation capacity and RD&I demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The capacity of Estonian businesses to adopt and create new knowledge and technologies is currently inadequate. - Estonian innovation system capacity and performance is still insufficient to develop and activate absorptive capacity and therefore the R&D function in companies is low. The majority of Estonian companies are small and rather young, which is why they have not been able to accumulate enough inhouse innovative capacities to meaningfully and regularly engage in research and development. The research development institutions capabilities and capacity for innovation are limited. - Companies and public sector lack people with necessary skills and experience in RD&I and product development. - Although Estonia can boast with 6 Estonian-based unicorns, which is remarkable result per capita, there is still gap between the most innovative companies who are positioned high in their value chain, and the majority of companies in Estonia, which is why the overall private sector productivity and positions in global value are low. <p>2. Ensuring relevant and flexible RD&I supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R&D and higher education institutions' capacity to serve the demand driven needs of the society and businesses is low. - Societal challenges linked to UN sustainable development goals and smart specialization should be better integrated into the Estonian RD&I system. There are very few thematically focused RD&I activities where R&D and higher education institutions and businesses work together to build advantages within the emerging new markets and technologies. - There is a gap between top-level research capacities, the needs of the society and structure of economy. The use and availability of research infrastructure services and research outputs of the centres of excellence outside the academia is limited. <p>3. Well-functioning knowledge transfer system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The interaction and connections between academia, private and public sector are limited, local 'knowledge networks' and cooperation platforms are underdeveloped, the potential of engagement in international 'knowledge market' has not been fulfilled. - Public sector's capacity to integrate RD&I into the national policies, including the government's important role as a forerunner in applying innovative solutions and as the creator of the demand for innovation, is limited. - The availability and awareness of research data and outputs is modest, civil society and businesses engagement in RD&I processes is limited. - Use of RD&I is still relatively modest in Estonian public sector. Larger scale development projects and evidence-based experiments which would implement new technologies, innovative practices etc are still quite rare. Also, the smart regulations and other demand-side innovation policy instruments should be more actively used to trigger business innovation. - To meet the development needs and implement strategic goals of "Eesti 2035" and Research, Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship strategy for the period of 2021-2035, more extensive use of new knowledge and innovative solutions is inevitable. In addition to technology-based solutions, the growing need to use humanities and social sciences to solve the above-mentioned challenges is recognized.
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		<p>- Therefore, it is important to create better preconditions in public sector for more active integration of RD&I into the national policies, including facilitating co-creation with the business sector.</p> <p>Impact of these interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the capability of research and development in public and private sector will improve the quality and extent of the RD services, increase the uptake of new technologies, business and service models leading to improved value chain, higher productivity and more efficient and effective products and services; - strengthening innovation performance and fostering productivity growth will increase sustainability, growth and overall well-being of the Estonian society, for every citizen through improved products and services, higher incomes and sustainable and greener environment. - increased public demand for R&D intensive innovative products and services will boost R&D and innovation in private sector and wider public will benefit from better solutions to our “societal challenges.”
<p>PO1 [tekst 2.04 seisuga]</p>	<p>(ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments;</p>	<p>We will make sure that Estonia’s digital government meets the user needs in best way and is technologically innovative – while secure. This way, we are investing into further enhancing our core national strength area. Development of digital government also is part of EU newest digital agenda, as per 2020 communication “Shaping Europe’s Digital Future”. The planned interventions and need for them stem directly from upcoming new national digital agenda for 2030 (in drafting).</p> <p>Wide uptake of digital solutions in public sector in Estonia has already led to higher productivity in both government and national economy, to more accessible and higher quality public services.</p> <p>However, several challenges still exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estonian digital government solutions still lack in areas of user-friendliness of services, or the use and quality of data within public sector (both mentioned in Annex D of country report, too), also technical quality and sustainability of digital government infrastructure and core services (e.g. brought out in National Audit Office annual review 2019); - With the development of public governance and services, policy reforms and changes in the regulatory environment (including at the EU level), the governmental business processes underlying digital services and the user needs are changing all the time and at increasing speed. Also, users' expectations of service quality and personalisation are also increasing constantly. Therefore, digital solutions must continuously be updated (redesigned and redeveloped), plus new ones adopted. - Digital technology itself continues to evolve: creating new opportunities for better delivery of existing public services and administration, or the emergence of opportunities for digital delivery of services or governance in ways that were previously impossible. Reaping these benefits will require capacity for swift uptake of new opportunities, as well as specific investments into experimentation, R&D, related uptake of innovations. - The risks related to digital solutions keep growing: scale and range of cyber risks is constantly growing and increasingly complex to manage, while the new solutions also impose new risks, such as new attack possibilities against digital services.

		<p>Thus, growing the capacity for cyber security is a necessity to keep being and going digital in Estonia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of digital service development and delivery is very uneven and mostly low on regional/municipality level, given also uneven and low level of capability for digital transformation and management in municipalities (as they are still too small in large majority). NGOs are digitally too weak to be able to offer a remedy – digital transformation is yet to reach the third sector. Reforms are necessary in this area, to make (local) public service delivery similarly good and accessible across the country/regions. A particular challenge for local governments is ability to manage their systems securely (highlighted by National Audit Office several times). - As OECD 2020 Digital Government Index illuminated, Estonia has been delivering good results despite insufficient maturity of digital coordination, skills and governance of digital government – which would be crucial to make the impact of investments uphold in time. Thus, relevant capacity building is merited to make digital government excellence spread across the whole public sector and have proper governance mechanisms in place. <p>The benefit for citizens and businesses of additional investments in this area would be: taking the quality of public services and administration to the next level through, manifested in better personalisation and user-friendliness of services, more productive public authorities and better availability of services (incl in face of cyber threats). This will also deepen our national competitive edge in digital sphere, which has many economic growth spillovers.</p>
<p>PO1 [tekst 2.04 seisuga]</p>	<p>(iii) enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments;</p>	<p>Out of all new businesses, few are innovative, knowledge-based and focused on providing high added value. Increasing the proportion of such businesses requires knowledge and skills provided at a professional level, but also an ecosystem to encourage and support flexible entrepreneurship and provide relevant and accessible physical and digital services to entrepreneurs launching their businesses. Special support is needed for start-ups, in order for them to scale up, and the start-up ecosystem, which is international competition, too few investors with a sufficiently broad investment portfolio, and limited impact of start-ups on the wider economy.</p> <p>Estonia may be a pioneer of the digital economy, but in terms of utilisation and implementation of digital services, Estonian businesses position 19th in the EU. This gap is partially due to businesses' lack of expertise for managing digitalisation, and a low level of digital competencies, which stop them from utilising data to the greatest possible degree for their business purposes and for improving their competitive position. The productivity and position in global value chains of SME-s, including in creative industries and tourism, is low. Regional differences in competitiveness and productivity of SMEs outside the more developed capital region need to be addressed to increase the pace of catching up of these regions to the overall economic growth in EU.</p> <p>69% of investments made by Estonian businesses is spent on property, plant and equipment, and less than a third on intangible assets. Estonian economy is further characterised by a lack of export of high added-value products and services, low international recognition, and a marginal position in global trade.</p> <p>Furthermore, export prices of Estonian goods have not increased at a sufficient rate compared to the European average. Due to the small scale</p>

		<p>of Estonian businesses (approximately 98% of businesses are SME), most of them have limited resources for strategic export development and entering new markets. Therefore it is important to provide strategic, innovative and proactive support for businesses entering international markets. Access to capital is problematic, especially outside major cities. Furthermore, there are obstacles to financing higher-risk activities, such as research and development, product development, etc, because the investment environment is not competitive enough to provide a sufficient variety of financial instruments.</p>
<p>PO1 [tekst 2.04 seisuga]</p>	<p>(v) enhancing digital connectivity</p>	<p>Estonia performs well in terms of overall broadband connectivity, but a digital divide between urban and sparsely populated areas, both in terms of coverage and take-up is still present. Ultra-fast coverage in sparsely populated areas is 32.8%. Despite the availability of networks, the take-up of fast (44%) and ultra-fast (14%) broadband is below the EU average (49% and 26% respectively). Effective deployment of the 5G networks also contributes to assuring reliable and fast connectivity. According to the mapping of investment needs, Estonia still has around 65 000 locations in „white“ market failure areas not having access to very high capacity broadband infrastructure, 17% out of which in South-Eastern Estonia. Lack of very high capacity broadband infrastructure and 5G coverage has a negative impact on reducing regional disparities and disturbs the availability of contemporary services. New broadband technologies in regions enable the innovation of communication and content service for inhabitants and businesses.</p> <p>Very high capacity broadband infrastructure and 5G networks are necessary for devices, which demand reliable and fast connection to transmit increasing data volumes. 5G will transmit data faster than current technologies. Data is an enabler for new business models and innovation which create new jobs. The technology is ready and most of the telecom operators have already tested 5G communication services. Hence, governments must strive to lead the adoption of this technology. There are, nevertheless, some good opportunities for leadership in a number of 5G vertical markets. For Estonia public safety, manufacturing industry, digital culture and transportation stand out here – these verticals dominate among the testbeds and the business cases can be relatively easy to find. Underlying that as one of the first steps, we need our transport paths to be “5G corridors” both nationally and cross-border. 5G infrastructure along major transport routes is a crucial step for sustainable mobility and the improvement of traffic safety which has been proven by preliminary 5G mapping.</p> <p>Over the last 10 years Estonia has invested already more than €80 million euros to backbone network development in rural areas. As a result about 7000 km additional fibreoptic network has been built and it covers the main transport routes in Estonia – a solid foundation for 5G development. But further investments are necessary in market failure areas: the construction of very high capacity broadband infrastructure; the promotion of the uptake of 5G technologies; 5G coverage for major transport corridors, residential and business areas.</p>
<p>PO2 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]</p>	<p>(i) promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Motivation of district heating providers, private house owners and enterprises responsible for public transportation to contribute to energy efficiency and introduction of renewable energy is low, because these kinds of investments are usually not economically viable. This also applies to the energy efficiency of social infrastructure, such as healthcare facilities. Actions under SO1 are targeted (as per Annex D) to promote energy efficiency measures renovations and transitioning to renewable fuels in accordance with the National Development Plan for</p>

		<p>the Energy Sector Until 2030³, the National Energy and Climate Plan Until 2030⁴, the National Long-term Building Renovation Strategy⁵, European Green Deal and European Commission's Renovation Wave Strategy and Methane Strategy.</p> <p>In Estonia, buildings are accounted for ca 50% of all energy consumption (the EU average is 40%) and less than 1% (Energy performance of buildings directive recommends 3%) of housing stock is renovated annually. Most of the buildings (around 80%) were built before 1990. Main problems of the housing sector are the result of aged buildings and regional disparities: low quality of existing housing stock, reduced sustainability of renovation and low energy efficiency; limited availability of energy efficient housing with good indoor climate; limited development of housing market outside larger centres and away from active real estate areas.</p> <p>Reduction of ambient air pollutants, greenhouse gases (like CH₄ from the poor combustion processes) and short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP-s) is crucial to mitigate the negative effect on environment and to reduce significant health risks. For ambient air, measures for all related sectors (energy, transport, residential and district heating etc) have been agreed in National Programme for Reduction of Emissions of Certain Atmospheric Pollutants 2020-2030. Air quality and greenhouse gases assessment in urban and industrial areas is the tool for evaluating the effectiveness and actual impact of measures and efficiency of environmental policy, as well as increasing public awareness.</p>
<p>PO2 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]</p>	<p>(iv) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches</p>	<p>According to the Country Report 2019, Annex D regarding climate change risks, Estonia is subject to coastal erosion and floods, which damage infrastructure. Investment needs have been identified for climate change adaptation, risk prevention, disaster resilience. Based on risks assessment and capability analyses, it is crucial to improve response time for emergencies caused by storms, floods and forest fires, and to ensure improved flood risk management and functionality of storm drainage systems under conditions of more frequent rainfall. There is a risk of floods where the infiltration of rainwater into the ground has been significantly reduced by poorly or non-conductive coatings. Therefore, it is important to adopt with additional hydraulic loads caused by climate change and to establish modern stormwater systems to avoid stormwater induced floods and reduce heat island effect arising from hot weather. Additionally, investments to develop and modernize the meteorological (incl. radar network), environmental and hydrological monitoring network and weather radar network are planned under the SO.</p> <p>Stormy winters with lack of ice have turned out to be a rapidly increasing threat to port facilities and safe servicing of various vessels. Lack of defences (seawalls, breakwaters) contributes to rapid shortening of the useful life of port facilities.</p> <p>Conservation of biodiversity is an important tool for buffering climate change; functioning ecosystems are more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change and essential for the maintenance of the carbon stock. The condition of climate-sensitive wetlands needs to improve, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.</p> <p>The climate change awareness in Estonia (59%, 2019) remains below the EU average (79%). The goal of the Internal Security Strategy is to raise people' awareness regarding emergencies and crisis situations by</p>

³ https://www.mkm.ee/sites/default/files/ndpes_2030_eng.pdf

⁴ <https://mkm.ee/et/eesmargid-tegevused/energeetika/eesti-riiklik-energia-ja-kliimakava-aastani-2030>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/default/files/documents/ee_2020_ltrs_official_translation_en.pdf

		2030. The public needs well-developed tools to understand the possible threats, consequences and self-preparedness measures.
PO2 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]	(vi) promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	<p>Transition to circular economy is a prerequisite for increased competitiveness and in view of global trends - an inevitable choice. Proposed actions are targeted in accordance with The Country Report 2020 to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) significant investment needs in the circular economy, ii) low resource productivity and iii) hampered competitiveness due high levels of domestic material consumption and waste generation. <p>The National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 addresses need to avoid and reduce waste and to develop a green technology investment program. The challenges and interventions are framed by the objective of transition to a resource efficient climate-neutral circular economy (as per Annex D) by 2050 and the new EU circular economy action plan and industrial strategy.</p> <p>Estonia needs to significantly improve in terms of resource productivity (0.64 EUR/kg, EU 2.33 EUR/kg). For circular transition, fundamental changes are needed, especially in the first stages of resource use chain to continue to improve in resource efficiency and to implement a full circular transition in waste management. Circular economy-based production and consumption models, promotion of eco-design, improved energy and resource efficiency of enterprises are the main focus areas. We have experience and studies from last period on resource efficiency and waste management measures. The goal is to have an entrepreneurship model based on circular economy by 2035.</p> <p>Waste management interventions are based on the goals of National Waste Management Plan and the Waste Framework Directive. Reduction in waste generation and packaging leads to reduced costs and environmental impacts throughout the whole product chain. Estonia is still far behind in terms of municipal waste recycling targets. In 2019, 31% of waste was recycled in Estonia (55% target for 2025). Efficient and effective waste management needs to be developed, including high separate collection rate and availability of suitable recycling capacities.</p>
PO2 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]	(viii) promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy	<p>The population in Estonia is concentrated in urban areas which leads to issues with accessibility, traffic congestion and emissions. The number of daily commuters puts significant pressure on the existing infrastructure and raises the need for further development of a complex and sustainable urban transport system. Proposed actions are targeted to address those major problems and challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing travel times and costs; • growing dependence on personal cars and the resulting inequalities; • decreasing travel by sustainable modes (unattractive streets, decreasing independent mobility of children, fragmented public transport services); • increasing transport-related energy consumption and CO2 emissions; • increasing negative health effects; • poor integration of land use and transport planning. <p>The greatest impact can be achieved in Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu urban areas. Tallinn region is home to half of the population and represents highest transport load and heaviest commuter traffic. Half of Estonia's CO2 comes from Tallinn region - 1,400,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions from traffic per year (target level 930,000 tonnes by 2030).</p>

		<p>In Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu area the use of bicycles for normal transport functions is far from reaching its potential. The length of cycle paths in those cities is insufficient, individual bicycle routes are often unconnected and with frequent interruptions, also storage facilities are lacking or unsafe.</p> <p>In those regions more attention needs to be paid to the efficiency and speed of public transport, its network and competitiveness in relation to private cars. That emphasizes the need for developing and improving intermodal passenger transport hubs and combining different types of mobility options.</p> <p>In capital region Tallinn establishing new tram links as a valuable high capacity and environmentally friendly type of public transport is crucial.</p> <p>Proposed actions are consistent with national Transport and Mobility Strategy 2021-2035 (in preparation).</p>
<p>PO3 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]</p>	<p>(ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T</p>	<p>As a sparsely populated country, Estonia depends on a functioning transport system. Alas Estonia has made only little progress on completing the TEN-T core network. Investment needs in transport sector until 2030 are increasing and among that the need to upgrade major roads to meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013. Road safety needs improvement, as Estonia falls below EU average regarding safety on roads. Safety of pedestrians and cyclists will be improved by pedestrian roads and tunnels. In addition, more investments in environmental mitigation measures are needed. All obligations under directive 2014/94/EU have been fulfilled, road recharging infrastructure is under continuous improvement.</p> <p>The total external cost of inland transport in Estonia is estimated at 1.5 billion euros annually, corresponding to 5.3% of Estonia's GDP, 51% of this is environmental cost (EU average 44%). New Transport and Mobility Development Plan for 2021–2035 is being prepared which takes into account environmental impacts and focuses on the development of sustainable mobility and its infrastructure.</p> <p>Bearing European Semester 2020 Country Report in mind, a rail measure has been designed that focuses on the development of sustainable transport: the electrification of railways, the straightening of curves, which should increase train speeds and the number of train passengers in the future. To maximise the efficiency of Rail Baltic and ensure synergies between Connecting Europe Facility and Cohesion Fund Rail Baltic local stops are being built between Tallinn and Ikla. Planned actions contribute to EU objectives in sustainable and smart mobility strategy.</p> <p>Digital infrastructure must become part of the mobility service and infrastructure, so that faster data communication allows the ITS sector to develop, create and test new management, information and mobility services.</p>
<p>PO3 [tekst 2.07 seisuga]</p>	<p>(iii) developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved</p>	<p>For regional development, it is necessary to solve bottlenecks that keep people from walking, using bicycles or combining different modes of transport for daily commuting and to improve the infrastructure essential for accessing public transportation and services by active modes of transport.</p> <p>The measure contributes to safe and sustainable mobility networks by promoting the development of cycling and/or walking paths outside the largest urban areas (Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu). The development of these paths is expected ensure better and more sustainable access to services, public transport (including Rail-Baltic local stops), and to workplaces. More fully developed cycling/pedestrian mobility networks</p>

	<p>access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility</p>	<p>of this kind have the potential to significantly increase the use of rail, increase the use and sustainability of public transport as a whole and to reduce dependence on private cars and thus lower GHG emissions nationally. The intervention contributes to the development of integrated transport systems, including supporting the formation of comprehensive networks of cycling and walking, and the usability of a more convenient electric railway station. The investments are expected to have a beneficial effect on reducing climate change.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(a) improving access to employment and activation measures of all jobseekers, in particular youth, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through promoting self-employment and the social economy;</p>	<p>To achieve a swift recovery from the economic and labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis and to support ongoing structural changes in the economy, jobseekers including unemployed and inactive as well as employed need targeted package of active labour market measures. Different groups face different challenges entering, returning and maintaining their position at the labour market or transitioning to jobs in need of different skills. Labour market is segregated based on gender, age, work ability and nationality, horizontally and vertically. Stereotypes remain a problem. Not only do these problems hinder gender equality and progress towards eliminating the gender pay gap, such issues also prevent skills' and needs based labour mobility.</p> <p>Although Estonians, esp. women, are well educated, people often work at jobs below their acquired education or skill level. According to 2016 data (PIAAC), 36.1% of workers – appr. 200,000 - work at a job requiring a lower level of education. According to OECD, worker's hourly productivity constitutes about 73% of an average EU28 worker's. Causes for this gap include low levels of education, outdated education and skills. People with outdated or low levels of education and skills have scarce resources to renew their skills and are in more vulnerable situation at the labour market, additionally employers have less interest in investing in them. Youth unemployment rate is higher than general unemployment rate, especially in the crisis situation (increased from 6,9% in 2019 to 12,6% in the IIQ of 2020). Due to lack of work experience, lower education, regional gaps, language barriers or other obstacles, young people need more intensive support.</p> <p>Different socio-economic and regional gaps exist causing further structural gaps. Also, care burden and health problems remain an obstacle. Considerable nationality based segregation in the labour market, expressed in particular in a wage gap and unemployment (1,5 fold gap in unemployment rate in 2019) and employment (69,6% vs 66% in 2019) indicators, exists in the labour market. Due to all of this, significant amount of population's labour market potential remains insufficiently used.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(d) promoting adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, and active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks</p>	<p>One of the biggest challenges for Estonia over the next decade is finding a way to keep people in the labor market as healthy and long as possible. Health and safety at work needs to be improved. The number of work accidents has gone up during the past five years by 25%, increasing the expenses of employees, employers, and the state. Employment relationships and employment forms are diversifying, leading to new risks and greater employee responsibility. It is necessary to raise awareness of the hazards and risks of the work environment to prevent work accidents and to preserve the employees' work ability. It also has a detrimental effect on the introduction of new ways of working, incl. teleworking and other flexible arrangements.. Also, the system to identify and measure the physical, chemical and biological risks at workplace needs to be improved.</p> <p>Weak supervision of the work environment, the poor-quality and sustainability of the occupational health care system with limited services hinders the prevention and early detection of work-related health issues. There is no intervention to maintain work</p>

		<p>abilityemployability and skills in case of temporary incapacity for work. The support system for this period is ineffective and can lead to partial or permanent loss of work ability. People leave also because of the pension system providing an old-age pension under favourable conditions, which tend to motivate early retirement, employers' attitudes and health problems.</p> <p>The system to identify and measure the physical, chemical and biological risks at workplace needs to be improved. Recognized labs can be found only in bigger cities, and several modern methods to identify and measure the risks are not Estonia</p> <p>People leave the the labor market also because of the pension system providing an old-age pension under favourable conditions, which tend to motivate early retirement, employers' attitudes and health problems.</p> <p>Main causes of health loss, are cardiovascular diseases, malignant tumors, and injuries, which are largely affected caused by lifestyle and the environment. The main risk factors for health determinants (alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, diet, physical activity), are not effectively prevented. In addition, cCounselling and treatment services are fragmented, poorly integrated with primary care services and not sufficiently provided. Likewise risks related to mental health are not sufficiently mitigated. There is a lack of cooperation between different sectors (health, education, social, justice, internal security, etc.) at different levels (state, local level; third and private sector).</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(e) improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships</p>	<p>I. The education and training systems in Estonia are not sufficiently responsive to labour market needs and skills mismatches and shortages are increasing. The supply of the education and training workforce is not ensured especially in the context of the expected shift towards more greener and digital economy.</p> <p>An approach to personalization of and support to teaching and learning as well as to development throughout one's life of the motivation to study has not taken root. The percentage of 18-24 year-old young people not in education nor training is still too high as well as the percentage of people without secondary education in younger age groups. Gender related gaps in post basic education are as well worrisome. Development and valuation of general skills and key competencies required in the future is not sufficiently valued, coherence and continuity between different education levels and types is not sufficient and the principles of inclusive education have not been implemented as much as had been expected. Studies are not connected to future careers and the labor market in a sufficient manner and cooperation with companies for the purpose of making studies more practical and relevant to real life is insufficient and the general awareness on application of research and development and innovation is low. Teachers' and school-leaders skills in shaping the study process and environment are uneven, incl. the potential of digital solutions is not maximally used to enhance studying and teaching. The teaching methods and means used are at times out of date and irrelevant and the peculiarities and special needs of not all learners are considered. The capacity for research based and inclusive development of curricula and for implementation management of such curricula is scarce. Provision of feedback concerning learners' study outcomes and internal and external assessment of educational institutions is insufficiently cohesive. The formal education system continues to face the great challenge of aging teachers and the resulting need to secure the addition of new teachers. In nonformal learning, approximately 90% of youth workers have a higher education; however, 60% of the latter do not have</p>

		<p>special qualification or the qualification of a Youth Worker and the sector is characterized by staff turnover.</p> <p>II. Studying opportunities and students choices are not sufficiently in line with the development needs of the society and the labor market</p> <p>As European Commission has pointed out in 2019 country specific recommendations Estonia has to improve the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training and support key competences, including digital and transversal skills and innovation management at all educational levels;</p> <p>Learning pathways in upper-secondary education do not provide for enough choice, flexibility, or personalization and vocational education is still low in popularity. Severe shortage of labor force and skills in a number of sectors (incl. ICT, engineering, social and healthcare sector and other growth areas, incl. STEM) is on the rise and this hinders further economic development and restrains Estonia from reaching the next development phase. The attractiveness of these study fields for the prospective students is low, in several fields the number of graduates is not corresponding to the labour market needs. For example, the Estonian ICT alone sector is missing more than 14,000 people. One of the concerns to tackle is the gender stereotypes in the choice of study paths between boys and girls. In addition to the sector specific approach there is also need for region specific approach to better address the skills and skills levels needed for labour market. Learners' educational and career choices do not correspond to estimated labor force needs and drop-out rates from vocational and higher education are high. In relation to work-based learning (WBL, incl apprenticeships), challenges include the motivation and capacity of SME's to provide study opportunities and involvement in studies of up to 25 year-old youths (without prior work experience) and learners with educational special needs.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(f) promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Children raised in risk prone situations and inactive young people, their exclusion from acquisition of education, the labor market and opportunities offered by youth work constitutes a serious social problem. Due to increasing shortage of qualified labor force in the labor market, it is crucial to include youth in the labor market or to increase their qualification by further studies.</p> <p>In 2020, there were 24,300 young people who do not study, work or participate in training (so-called young people with NEET status) in the 15-29 age group in Estonia, i.e. 11.7% of the age group. Compared to 2019, the number of young people with NEET status has increased and risen back to the level where it remained in 2016–2018 (20,700 or 9.8% in 2019). We need to focus on preventive interventions through youth work and formal education as well as to develop more effective measures and wider outreach for young people in NEET status in stronger partnership (at state-, local-, family level) to reinforce the youth guarantee in combination with labour market measures. In the context of competitiveness and skills traineeships should be ensured.</p> <p>To plan, implement and assess the effect and quality of services that meet youth needs, development and further advancement of youth monitoring and analysis system is necessary.</p> <p>To reduce early school leaving and risk of exclusion high quality education, related support services and youth services must be accessible to children and youths regardless of the region they live, their mother tongue or any special needs they might have.</p>

<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(g) promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility</p>	<p>People need access to a broad set of skills, combining digital with job specific and transversal skills. Shortage of skilled labour is the main factor hindering the development of Estonian businesses. To achieve a swift recovery from the economic and labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis support to people re-and upskilling is needed. Skills development gives great benefits in putting economy back on sustainable growth to maintain and advance technically innovative and competitive economy and welfare.</p> <p>OECD data from 2018 show that an Estonian worker’s productivity constitutes about 73% of an average EU28 worker’s hourly productivity. Major cause for this gap are outdated education and skills. High percentage of individuals have low levels of education (approx. 84,000 individuals aged 25-64) and are without any professional education (26% in 2020). There is also a high drop-out rate in vocational education and in non-stationary general education. Despite general increase in participation in LLL (20.2% in 2019), participation rate among older people, people with lower education and skills, non-Estonian speaking people and men remains low.</p> <p>Fragmentation of the training market and shortcomings in quality evaluation system make providing non-formal training a challenge.</p> <p>Heterogeneity of students and the need to balance studies with employment will add to the increasing need for flexible and quality studying opportunities. There is a lack of information about non-formal learning opportunities and no user-friendly way to access the information.</p> <p>Skills anticipation and monitoring system OSKA has launched successfully but further reforms and cooperation is needed to reform the professional qualification system. Incentives and cooperation formats for organizing cooperation between educational institutions and employers and for modernization of content should be significantly more efficient.</p> <p>Skills assessment and validation opportunities are still insufficient and of uneven quality and do not support individuals to plan their studies and career. Skills descriptions, classifications and databases do not match and do not provide for a comparable overview skills needs of the population. The process of amending occupational standards is inflexible and does not allow for an efficient reaction to the needs of the labour market.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(h) fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups</p>	<p>Children and youth are significantly more susceptible than adults to different environmental factors and interventions. This means that growing up in unsatisfactory conditions reduces a child’s development potential, promotes risk behaviour and mental health issues. Providing assistance to children is the responsibility of the local governments (LG) and the state, but the system does not correspond to the needs. LG’s child protection workers deal with ca 10,000 children in need each year, i.e. children who experience sexual, mental and physical violence; who have serious behavioural and mental health problems; who do not have sufficient parental care. Currently, children in need are not provided with high quality and accessible services. This is causing the problems to accumulate and worsen. The bottlenecks are the late identification of the need for assistance, the fragmentation of the needs assessment and provision of support between different systems – social and healthcare, education, law enforcement. Instead of efficient family-based services, a significant proportion of children in need are directed to institutions. In the end, many of these children instead of becoming social contributors and creators of added value, grow up to be adults who need assistance. This vicious circle passes on from generation to generation, destroying</p>

		<p>the potential human capital. The prevention and management of risks in early childhood is the basis for future success of youth.</p> <p>Activities aimed at improving the wellbeing and development of children and young people, such as fostering civic education and facilitating active participation, can help prevent social exclusion and support the preparation of children and young people for their adult life. It is important to contribute to comprehensive measures that support the implementation of the European Child Guarantee – incl. creation of a comprehensive child protection system, including fostering cooperation between different levels and sectors, activities for the prevention of risk behavior and the risk of social exclusion of children and young people, support of children and young people that have relation to the criminal justice system, etc.</p> <p>Nearly 30% of the population in Estonia represents another ethnic groups and do not speak Estonian as first language and during the last decade, migration has increased (In 2020, 4 710 individuals from the third countries and 3,724 EU citizens settled in Estonia, besides the returnees).. Permanent residents of other ethnicities, new immigrants, and returning residents may become isolated in Estonia due to lack of abilities required for successful participation in the labour market, lifelong learning, etc and experience issues specific to their target group as well as common socio-economic problems, which are mostly connected with the lack of sufficient knowledge of Estonian language. Relevant problematic issues that are connected to having sufficient knowledge of the Estonian language, without which it is difficult to participate in society, and relate to a number of socio-economic fields – labour market, education, contacts with Estonians, participation in cultural life, media consumption, participation in civil society, openness and attitudes in Estonian society. We face clear socio-economic gaps in relation to language proficiency, age, and health indicators, as well as strong gender and nationality based segregation in the labour market. According to the last research available, ethnic regional segregation has been growing since early 1990ties, i.e. ethnic minorities tend to live with ethnic minorities without interacting with Estonians. Besides that, Ida-Virumaa has the worst integration indicators as compared to other areas that have ethnic minorities' population. This is why cooperation with local municipalities and development of their capacity to address the challenges of adaptation and integration locally is of high priority.</p> <p>Therefore, Estonia needs more services to support adaptation and integration, which involves ensuring that all residents acquire the Estonian language to a level necessary for obtaining education, participating in the labour market and in the society as a whole. It is important that residents have a shared information environment and feel fully integrated in the society. Failing to achieve this can create subgroups or regions that are unable to benefit fully from opportunities otherwise available, and this can lead to social tensions and disillusionment. The coherent approach is indispensable to address all those problematic issues concerning permanent residents of other nationalities, new immigrants, and returning residents to foster their active inclusion and participation, to improve their employability and to guarantee equal opportunities for them.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(k) enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services,</p>	<p>Estonian long-term care (LTC) system is fragmented between governance levels and sectors. As local governments (LG) capacities to invest in home and institution-based LTC services are unequal, access to LTC services depends largely on the residence of the person. Despite the general aim of Estonian welfare policy to provide services that support independent coping at home as long as possible Home services are available only to the extent of 15% of total demand, while the share of</p>

	<p>including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare ; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services</p>	<p>institutional services has increased. Studies show that 16-23% of older people with care needs require much more assistance with their daily living than the current care system can provide. Dementia is strongly underdiagnosed, remaining approximately 12 times lower than the expected 7% level in the 60+ group. About 45% of the recipients of general care services are people with dementia. Services supporting independent living at home are offered significantly seldom than needed. As a result, of this, families have a heavy care burden both in terms of providing the care and in paying for the services. Apprx 60 000 people have care responsibilities, including more than 8,100 who are not in paid work due to this and about 6,500 who have been forced to take a part-time job. The aging of the population will further increase the need for assistance and care.</p> <p>People with higher need of care are more often physically separated from society and family, which significantly limits their independence and ability to be a full member of community. It is necessary to implement new technological solutions, service models and mentality in the provision of LTC, which could support the people's ability to cope at home and help to increase their safety and quality of life. Improvement of the LTC system needs to go hand in hand with the developments in workforce. Estimations show that Estonia lacks of skills (including digital) to develop and provide modern and people-centred services. Reorganisation of LTC will further lead to the need for new competences and increases the need for labour force in the social protection sector.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(ii) improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training</p>	<p>Demographic changes and urbanization call for continuous efforts in reorganizing the school network and improving access to inclusive and quality education. The high priority investment needs in infrastructure and innovation management should promote cooperation between educational institution and decrease regional disparities in access to quality and inclusive education.</p> <p>The number of students subject to compulsory school attendance will drop by 4% within the next 10 years (increasing trend only in Tallinn, Harju County, and part of Tartu County, in other counties 5% - 25% is expected drop with the greatest decline occurring in Ida-Viru and Valga County). In a long-term perspective, the decline will most likely become even more significant in most counties and in combination with aging education workforce pose a challenge to sustainable provision of quality and inclusive education in regions with decreasing and aging population. In Russian-speaking regions and low-density areas students' results are poorer, irrespective of the student's socio-economic background. There are also regional gaps in transition rates from basic education to upper secondary as well as in upper secondary education acquisition success rates and the need to improve the labour market relevance of education and training.</p> <p>Cooperation of different types of education (formal, nonformal, informal) and cross-usage of resources and the service infrastructure are not optimal. Cohesion of the studying environment as a combination of physical space, study opportunities outside of the formal studies system, and virtual studying environments is insufficient – investments made in technologies, digital space and in accessibility of youth work, incl. hobby education, might remain unrealized to its fullest. Study</p>

		<p>environments oftentimes do not support achievement of education policy related objectives, e.g. introduction of the collaborative approach to learning and teaching with clear focus on key competencies, more focus on skills and competences required on the labour market etc. To promote inclusive education for students with special needs, physical space related programs must be continued, accessibility of school facilities must be improved, relevant fittings, equipment, and teaching and learning aids must be obtained.</p> <p>A key success factor at the level of the local municipalities' administrations and educational institutions is efficient innovation and quality management that establishes the framework for change management and improvements of the study process to prevent and tackle the low achievement at local and school level. A flexible and effective positive intervention and innovation management model needs to be developed, considering a specific school's peculiarities and which by way of situation analysis, supportive leadership, expert advice, and collaborative quality management efforts would help set up a sustainably functioning educational process, especially in schools experiencing difficulties or that are recently established.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(iii) promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services</p>	<p>By 2040 the share of elderly and people with disabilities are expected to increase from 19,8% to 25,6% and from 11,9% to 17%. Appx 1/3 of people over 65 report that their everyday activities are limited due to health problems and they need help in daily activities and self-care. At the same time, 8 000 people were excluded from the labor market due to care burden. Provision of good quality and affordable social services has improved but disparities between local governments have remained and although steps are being taken to build stronger bridge between social and healthcare systems, smooth integration still remains a challenge which can't be solved solely by improving the service provision model, it is also necessary to invest in the infrastructure.</p> <p>Development of social system is built on the principle of deinstitutionalisation (DI). There are currently 80,000 long-term care receivers but the actual need is estimated at least 132,000. It is necessary to invest in community-based service units, service houses, day care and general care places and continue with the adaptation of homes to enable home-based service provision. The care sector must also keep pace with technological and digital developments, increase its innovation capacity and support the uptake of technology. Investments are also needed in healthcare, especially in smaller counties and remote areas. Infrastructure of large hospitals in small counties is dysfunctional for the purpose of integrated care and inefficient in terms of the use of resources.</p> <p>For the successful implementation of the LTC reform and for the support of the integration of the health and social sector, it is important to invest to the infrastructure. These investments must base on the principle of DI and fully support people's independent living and coping. Transition from institutional based care to cooperation, coordination, and integration between the health and social care sectors in an integrated way is necessary to ensure the sustainability of social protection and health care systems and to provide comprehensive assistance to people.</p>
<p>PO4 [tekst 30.06 seisuga]</p>	<p>(xi) addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most</p>	<p>Despite improvements, poverty, social exclusion and income inequality are high in Estonia. In 2018, 21.7% of Estonian population lived at risk of poverty and 2.4% in absolute poverty.</p> <p>The at-the-risk-of-poverty decreased for single person households, i.e. people living alone, as well as among single parents.</p> <p>Social transfers, i.e. state benefits and pensions, helped to prevent falling into poverty. Without including these in income, 39.1% of the</p>

	deprived, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion	<p>population would have been at risk of poverty and 22.7% in absolute poverty.</p> <p>The risk of poverty rate remained at the level of 20.9% among young people aged 16–24. Among children under 18, the at-risk-of-poverty rate increased by 1,9 percentage points to 17.1% in 2018. At the same time, the absolute poverty rate of children fell from 2.5% in 2017 to 1.6% in 2018. There has been a decrease in the share of older people living at risk of poverty – the rate among persons aged 65 and older fell from 46.4% in 2017 to 43.1% in 2018.</p> <p>In 2019, 7.6% of the population in Estonia lived in deprivation. The deprivation rate was the highest among the elderly (at least 65 years old) (10.4%) and the lowest in the 18–24 year-old age group (5.3%).</p>
PO5 [tekst 29.03. seisuga]	(i) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas	<p>Development of urban areas has significant role in national economic development, it is also a priority target area highlighted by EC, which requires allocation of at least 8% of funding of ERDF. Larger urban areas are facing several problems arising from uneven growth such as unwanted environmental impact incidental to urban sprawl, irrational land use, inadequate technical and service infrastructure, traffic volume and air pollution caused by increased commuting, reduced biodiversity, uneven quality of public urban space, etc.</p> <p>Interventions chosen for the urban area reflect the challenges and goals described in regional and local development plans, as the quality of local living environment horizontally remains crucial for urban areas. Increasingly important common challenge for urban areas consists in environmental and climate questions. Additionally, each urban area faces other specific problems – e.g. intensified use of cars in Tallinn, low attractiveness of living environment in Ida-Viru county urban areas, large share of underutilized urban areas, housing stock that fails to meet current needs.</p> <p>Interventions planned under PO5 are additional to efforts made by other POs, most importantly by PO2 that focuses on sustainable urban transport development and climate change issues in urban areas. There is an increasing potential to address these challenges in developing smart and innovative solutions designed for the urban areas, the implementation of which is still limited in Estonia. The common target of the activities planned under PO2 and PO5 in urban areas is to improve the quality of living environment in urban areas by increasing the competitiveness of cities and reducing CO2 emissions. At least 8% of ERDF resources to sustainable urban development will be targeted in PO2 (SO viii) and PO5 (SO i) and implemented in the form of “other territorial tool”.</p>
PO5 [tekst 29.03. seisuga]	(ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas	<p>The Country Report Estonia 2020 emphasizes many of the challenges of regional development in Estonia that are also addressed by the planned intervention under PO5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gap in social and economic performance between the capital region and the rest of the country has increased. • Disparities in terms of GDP per capita are also reflected in the regional differences observed in labour productivity. GDP in 2018 was close to the EU average in the capital region of Põhja-Eesti (at 97 % of the EU average), while ranging between 52% and 59% of the EU average in the remaining NUTS3 regions. • Current public support for innovation activities has not met regional or business needs, calling for strengthening the support to regions lagging behind. • The number of people moving to the capital region from the rest of the country has slowed down, but the number of daily

		<p>commuters has increased. There is an intense internal mobility towards other larger urban and functional urban areas.</p> <p>Apart from two urban areas, the population is decreasing everywhere in Estonia. This poses challenges not only on economic catching-up but also on local level service provision, maintaining strong communities, attractive living environment and overall use of the space. The current service delivery model as well as necessary infrastructure has been developed for larger number of residents than population forecasts foresee, demographic processes also change the demand structure for local level services. When residents leave, services also disappear and buildings become empty, entrepreneurship and therefore work opportunities also decrease. The need to adjust successfully to the population changes is also described as one of the development needs in the long-term strategy Estonia 2035. As in PO5 the project selection is initiated by regions and projects planned are based on integrated regional strategies, local authorities' capacity to develop sound regional strategies and to assess and select projects needs to be supported and strengthened.</p>
<p>JTF [tekst 21.04 seisuga]</p>	<p>Enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union's 2030 target for climate and a climate-neutral economy by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>In 2019 Estonia committed to the common goal of reaching a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, and in 2020 – to the European Commission's 2030 Climate Target Plan which proposes to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and sets Europe on a responsible path to becoming climate neutral by 2050.</p> <p>In December 2019, Estonia communicated to the European Commission its "National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2030)", that sets the objectives of reducing GHG emissions and primary energy consumption and increasing the share of renewable energy while maintaining the security of supply.</p> <p>The transition to climate neutrality will have – and is already having – the largest impact specifically on the Ida-Viru region of Estonia.</p> <p>The oil shale sector in Estonia is highly concentrated in the eastern-most region of Ida-Virumaa (or Ida-Viru county), resulting in the fact that oil shale related companies located in the region account for over 50% of Estonia's total GHG emissions. The oil shale sector has been strategically important for the Estonian economy since the 1920's and has substantially influenced the socio-economic and environmental conditions of Ida-Viru county, where it is highly concentrated.</p> <p>Employees in the oil shale sector make up 13% of all employees in the region, but labor taxes paid for them account for 1/4 of the region's labor taxes. The oil shale sector is characterized by a significantly higher average salary than the county and the Estonian average. Companies in the oil shale sector are the cornerstone of Ida-Viru region's economy, both in terms of their turnover and high impact on companies dependent on these companies.</p> <p>In order to abandon electricity production from oil shale, targeted support for the mitigation of the socio-economic and environmental impacts of reduced electricity production from oil shale is needed during the transition period.</p>

2. PRIORITIES

2.1 Priorities other than technical assistance

2.1.1. A SMARTER ESTONIA *[KOGU PEATÜKI TEKST 2.04 SEISUGA]*

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation *
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 2(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 2(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation

2.1.1.1. Specific objective: (i) enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

2.1.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

The overall intervention logic follows a systematic approach based on the CR Annex D, country-specific recommendations of the European Semester investment guidelines and international peer review of the Estonian RD&I system. It is supporting the implementation of the new national Research, Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship strategy for the period of 2021-2035.

The interventions focus on increasing the use and effect of the RD&I results and spreading innovation further in the society in consistence with the smart specialisation areas. The intervention logic involves three directions:

1. expanding private sector's innovation capacity and RD&I demand;
2. securing relevant and flexible RD&I supply for addressing demand driven societal and business needs;
3. bridging the RD&I demand and supply side by the knowledge transfer mechanisms, including more active role of the public sector in the knowledge transfer process.

1. Expanding private sector's innovation capacity and RD&I demand

The interventions include the support for increasing the RD&I role in the companies' business models and by developing company management culture that promotes innovation, raising the companies' awareness about the benefits and possibilities of RD&I activities (e.g. by counselling, consultations, study visits, shadowing, mentoring, etc.); capacity building activities and support for the staff, including attracting of (foreign) top-level specialists. An applied research and experimental development programme will be implemented based on the needs of the companies (R&D activities that can be applied in business). The interventions also involve support for investments with higher added value and based on RD&I capability (development centres, expanding the existing investments to development activities, start-ups), by offering R&D vouchers and using the potential of technology development centres; promoting and supporting companies involvement in international R&D programmes, partnerships, networks (e.g. network of DIH centres and EDIH network), organisations (e.g. CERN, ESA, EUROSTARS, etc.) and value chains in strategic common interest; support for scaling the technologies developed in Estonia (including the uptake of near-market solutions for green technologies and innovation allowing to follow the European Green Deal and transfer to a low carbon and circular economy) to international markets and endorsement of investments that support companies in the transferring process. Also, activities strengthening

the role of the state as the active user of R&D activities and forerunner of innovation demand will be supported, including innovative public procurements, public sector-driven developmental activities for companies, design of public services, partnership between public and private sector, demo projects and the infrastructure and information technological solutions necessary for all this.

2. Securing relevant and flexible RD&I supply for addressing demand driven societal and business needs

2.1. Supporting the development of research-based services and institutional knowledge transfer capacity, including commercialisation capacities of R&D and higher education institutions (ASTRA+)

The interventions involve a complex and flexible 'work package' for the R&D and higher education institutions to increase their capacity and skills to engage in business-university cooperation and to improve the accessibility to research results. The interventions will support the development and implementation of 'entrepreneurial' model for the institutions, including the development of research-based services, the increase of competences of the academic and administrative staff in the area of knowledge transfer processes, including the commercialisation of research results (i.e. study trips, traineeships at the top level research commercialisation institutions and RTOs of the top international universities), the development of efficient research and knowledge transfer management system and services, institutional changes to enhance cooperation with businesses (e.g. open and flexible academic career model to support researchers' movement between the sectors) and joint activities between the R&D and higher education institutions (e.g. joint development of services for the business sector), etc. The interventions will also involve the development of userfriendly formats to improve access to the research results and data to potential users following the principles of Open Science. This complementary support to increasing the visibility and availability of research data and research results for the business sector and other potential users will further increase the impact and unveil the full potential of knowledge transfer activities at the R&D and higher education institutions. Activities include the development of national repositories and Open Science systems and linking them with European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) as well as the development of user portal of the research information system ETIS to increase the visibility and access to the research activities and outputs.

2.2. Implementing thematical R&D programmes to promote the co-creation and cooperation of the academic, private and public sector within smart specialisation areas

The activities focus on building critical mass of the researchers and research capacity within the smart specialisation areas where clear economic or social potential has been identified, but where the capacity to address specific research topics and providing market-oriented research solutions are not sufficient to satisfy the entrepreneurial demand. R&D activities, national and international cooperation (including participation in EU partnerships), preparing (future) RD&I specialists/young researchers and developers, who could take up RD activities in companies, attracting top-level researchers, the commercialisation and communication of research results and other activities necessary for the development of the focus areas will be supported within these programmes. Entrepreneurial discovery process and co-creation are the strong basis of these programmes.

2.3. Offering top-level knowledge and research infrastructure services for the benefit of demand driven needs of society and businesses

The focus of interventions will shift from the top-level research capacity building towards promoting collaboration and service provision to business and public sector. The interventions involve two important directions for the action: 1) making the research output and activities of the research centres of excellence available and usable for addressing demand driven needs of the private and public sector in Estonia and 2) opening the research infrastructure for private and public use outside of the academia. The interventions are designed to deliver significant economic and societal impact via linking frontier research with needs of business sector and society in consistence with smart specialisation activities. The supported activities include transfer of knowledge and technology through licences, expertise and know-how to companies, preparing new generation of (future) R&D specialists oriented towards business sector, research activities based on business sector needs and potential, engaging businesses and civil society in interactive RD&I processes to enforce informed exploitation of research outputs, etc. The interventions regarding the research infrastructure involve support for developing market-relevant R&D services for the private and public sector based on the existing infrastructure.

3. Bridging the RD&I demand and supply side by the knowledge transfer mechanisms, including more active role of the public sector in the knowledge transfer process

3.1. Building the 'knowledge networks' and business-academia links through the movement of employees between the academic, private and public sector

The interventions involve supporting movement of different types of employees between the academia, private and public sector, including support for short- and longer-term mobility of researchers and other RD&I experts, for implementation of entrepreneurial PhD programmes (involving PhD students in the business sector),

promoting entrepreneurial professorships, cooperation and networking platforms and match-making activities, etc.

3.2. Support for the internationalisation of R&D: connecting to the international knowledge market

The interventions involve support for research institutions and enterprises to participate in international R&D networks to be linked with the state of the art research and technology in the field and to be able to offer high-level expertise in solving R&D tasks. The activities include supporting participation in EU programmes, partnerships, teaming and projects, incl. European Horizon, supporting necessary preparations for international research projects and establishing consortia; support for the international research marketing activities, research mobility, attracting top-level (future) researchers and specialists to Estonia, support for ERA chairs, Seal of Excellence projects, etc.

3.3. Strengthening the RD&I absorption capacity in the society and building RD&I-favourable policy environment

The interventions help to set up the favourable conditions and public demand for RD&I and encourage cooperation and coordination of RD&I activities in the public sector, e.g. strategic cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary applied research projects, activities related to finance system, developing the network of the RD&I advisors at the ministries and the private sector's associations, etc.

3.4. Support for initiation and implementation of RD&I projects and initiatives to meet the societal challenges

The intervention involves funding for R&D based innovation projects (including relevant studies and analyses) as well as development of tools and methods which would increase the demand for R&D&I. These activities will lead public, private and academic sector to experiment new solutions for jointly defined challenges and needs. Researchers and companies are offered an opportunity to test their ideas and solutions in practice and develop prototypes. In this way solutions to societal challenges could be turned into competitive advantage, e.g., companies could later develop new products and services based on these experiences and scale these up in export markets. To facilitate initiation and implementation of the described R&D&I projects, relevant tools and methods will be developed, e.g., guidelines and concepts, pretested instruments, case-studies. Also, interministerial task forces (and innovation units) as an instrument for better cooperation and co-creation will be introduced and supported. Knowledge sharing events will be used to familiarize participants with these instruments and practices.

The main target groups [1 000 characters]

Both, new and existing companies, that are interested in developing knowledge and technology intensive business models; who already are active in RDI activities, but need additional resources and knowledge to reach the aims; who are currently not yet working on improving their economic results with the help of applied research and experimental development; who have the potential to increase the volume of RDI activities carried out for their business purpose; exporting companies with ambition and capability to rise in the global value chains; energy-intensive industries who contribute considerably into reaching the aim of climate neutrality. R&D institutions, higher education institutions, researchers, research teams, PhD students/young researchers, academic and supportive staff, knowledge transfer units at the R&D and higher education institutions, businesses and private sector's associations, ministries and other public sector bodies involved in RDI (f.e local government, municipalities), centres of excellence, owners of the research infrastructures, NGO-s, central and local government institutions.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2 000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination will be taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. The actions will involve the following: requirements and conditions for the applicants will ensure non-discriminative access, gender balance will be taken into account in composition of the committees and selection bodies, non-discriminative principles and procedures for evaluation and selection will be established.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2 000 characters]

Across Estonia

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2 000 characters]

The interregional and transnational actions will be mainly covered by two interventions:

- Implementing thematical R&D programmes to promote the co-creation and cooperation of the academic, private and public sector within smart specialisation areas, where among other activities international networking and involvement in projects, programmes and partnership (including EU partnerships) necessary for the development of the focus areas are supported.

- Support for the internationalisation of R&D: connecting to the international knowledge market is fully dedicated to international cooperation activities, including participation in international RD&I networks, partnerships, EIT KIC-s, joint programmes, European Horizon 2020, support for Seal of Excellence projects, ERA chairs, etc.

However, the element of international cooperation activities is also involved in other interventions, e.g.

- Supporting the increase of the research impact and institutional knowledge transfer capacity of R&D and higher education institutions (ASTRA+), where among other activities involvement in international knowledge transfer and cooperation networks, study visits and gaining professional experience at top-level knowledge transfer centres abroad, etc is supported.

- Offering top-level knowledge and research infrastructure services for the benefit of demand driven needs of society and businesses, where among other activities involvement in international (innovation and knowledge transfer) networks and activities is supported.

The planned use of financial instruments [1 000 characters]

n/a

2.1.1.1.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RC001	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RC002	Enterprises supported by grants	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RC004	Enterprises with non-financial support	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RC007	Research institutions participating in joint research projects	<i>research institutions</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RC010	Enterprises cooperating with research institutions	<i>enterprises</i>		

1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	PSO01	Number of external clients using services of Centres of Excellence or research infrastructures	<i>clients</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	PSO02	Number of entities participating in mobility schemes	<i>entities</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	PSO03	Number of researchers participating in international mobility schemes	<i>researchers</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	PSO04	Number of institutions participating in Horizon Europe	<i>institutions</i>		
1	(i)	ERDF		PSO05	Number of supported innovation projects	<i>innovation projects</i>		

Table 3: Result indicators											
Pri ority	Speci fic objective	Fund	Cat egor y of regi on	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Meas urement unit	Base line or refer ence valu e	Re fer ence year	Tar get (20 29)	Sour ce of data [200]	Commen ts [200]
1	(i)	ERDF	Tra nsiti on	PSR01	Volume of R&D contracts of enterprises involved in the supported cooperation projects	<i>euro</i>					
1	(i)	ERDF	Tra nsiti on	PSR02	Revenue from R&D services offered by Centres of Excellence and research infrastructure	<i>euro</i>					
1	(i)	ERDF	Tra nsiti on	PSR03	Estonia's success in Horizon Europe: volume of contracts	<i>euro</i>					
1	(i)	ERDF	Tra nsiti on	PSR04	R&D investments of public entities involved in the supported projects	<i>euro</i>					

1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	euro					
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR03	Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises					
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises					
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR08	Publications from supported projects	publications					
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR25	SMEs with higher value added per employee	enterprises					
1	(i)	ERDF	Transition	RCR10 2	Research jobs created in supported entities	annual FTEs					

2.1.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 4: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	i		
1	ERDF	Transition	i		

Table 5: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	i		
1	ERDF	Transition	i		

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 7: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 8: Dimension 5 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

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2.1.1.2 Specific objective: (ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments

2.1.1.2.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

Interventions' focus will be on deepening the digital transformation of Estonian public sector, by investing into adoption of solutions that are innovative for Estonia, the particular domain or organisation with the following aims (stemming from challenges highlighted above):

- Comprehensive digital transformation and reform programmes in policy making, public service and administration domains, especially in areas where digital maturity or „business model“ transformation has been lower so far (e.g. digitisation of justice life-cycle, digital health, integrated social services, digital cultural heritage, etc);
- Increasing the availability, safety and user-friendliness of public services and reducing relevant administrative burden on citizens and especially companies, at all levels of government;
- Increasing the data-driven policy-making and service delivery capacity within government, including the use of data science (incl. big data), improvements of data quality and open data availability;
- Encouraging experimentation and scaling of novel solutions and emerging technologies (starting with AI), including by boosting applied research and development activity and capacity on digital government and cybersecurity areas, and enhancing innovation collaborations with private sector;
- Taking the digital government infrastructure and core services of digital government to a next level (including development of platform solutions, cloud uptake, etc), including development of shared cybersecurity capabilities;
- Taking digital governance maturity to the next level, including development of relevant competences of public sector staff, coordination mechanisms and collaboration across the public sector;
- Raising digital capacity of local municipalities and NGOs, with special focus on transforming their service delivery and enhancing cybersecurity.

The following types actions will be undertaken across these interventions:

- 1) Development and uptake of digital solutions and innovations in the public sector, both through financial support as well as other support activities (including thematic applied R&D);
- 2) Development and uptake of next-generation digital infrastructure and core services that underpin public sector digital solutions;
- 3) Building cybersecurity capacity, both through investments as well as soft measures;
- 4) Developing competencies, collaboration and coordination on digital governance, cybersecurity and service development;
- 5) Stimulating the reform of municipal-level digitisation and uptake of digital solutions in NGOs.

The interventions will support the directions laid out and commitments made in 2017 Tallinn (Ministerial) Declaration on E-Government, supporting also cross-border service delivery and strengthening of relevant interoperability and, where relevant, the uptake or customization of European common digital infrastructures.

As a result of the above-mentioned interventions the quality of public (digital) services increases: user satisfaction increases, the cost-effectiveness of service processes improves, the duration of processes becomes shorter, users save more time on services and the public sector provides (digital) services more efficiently. Also the security of public (digital) services is enhanced – no major cyber risk materializes and incidents occur less frequently.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

All public service providers, partly private sector (if creating free solutions for public sector use), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (aka Government CIO Office) and its subunits, other local and public authorities, subjects to the Cyber Security Act – service providers.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Entire Estonia (there is no region-specific approach planned, as in the country with size of Estonia, it is not practical nor necessary when it comes to digital government solutions).

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

When and where deemed relevant towards intervention logics outlined above, interventions may include support to targeted interregional and transnational actions (e.g. development of digital solutions to reduce administrative burdens in cross-border business).

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

n/a

2.1.1.2.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	(ii)	ERDF	Transition	RCO14	Public institutions supported to develop digital services, products and processes	<i>public institutions</i>		

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
1	(ii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR11	Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes	<i>annual users</i>					

2.1.1.2.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 11: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	ii		
1	ERDF	Transition	ii		

Table 12: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	ii		
1	ERDF	Transition	ii		

Table 13: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 14: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 15: Dimension 5 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.1.3. Specific objective: (iii) enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments

2.1.1.3.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

The interventions focus on promoting entrepreneurship and the creation and growth of knowledge-intensive business, the creation and export of higher value-added products and services, and investments in all regions of Estonia. Interventions will contribute to smart specialisation areas (ICT, health technologies and services; transformation of resources; smart and sustainable energy solutions). The intervention logic involves three directions:

- 1. Support to grow entrepreneurship, starting a business, develop the start-up ecosystem and developing the necessary business support system and networks in different regions of Estonia.**
- 2. Increasing SME competitiveness and the capacity to create higher added value and export**

3. Improving access to finance (capital) for SMEs including in regions

The interventions include the support for entrepreneurship and starting a business. Support will be given for the implementation of new business models, including the principles of circular economy and responsible entrepreneurship; support services to encourage technological innovation, the use of best available technologies, better management, and generational change. Uptake of digital commerce (e-commerce, platform economy, sharing economy) in order to improve the competitiveness of Estonian micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the development and implementation of the real-time economy will be supported. The application of automation, including digitalisation, standardisation, AI and robotics technologies, should be increased in businesses. The intervention will also support increased competitiveness of the start-up ecosystem and more research and development intensive start-ups. The goal is to make Estonia more attractive for the establishment of growth companies with a global reach. Establishment of an environment suitable for the development of technology companies will be fostered as a public-private partnership, based on current challenges faced by the start-up ecosystem and global developments in this field. The competitiveness of start-ups for retaining and developing talent in the long term and fostering diversity (gender and age diversity, inclusion of persons with various educational backgrounds) will be increased. Flexible and sustainable financing instruments will be created for start-ups active in research and development intensive areas and scale-ups. Furthermore, capital will be provided for existing successful Estonian-established, venture capital funds in all growth phases (including follow-on investment for early-phase start-ups) and also to new venture capital funds that invest into other emerging areas, for example start-ups that are more research and development intensive (green technologies etc).

The actions for increasing SME competitiveness and the capacity to create higher added value and export include supporting the growth of exports of RD & I-intensive products and technologies improving their placement in global value chains. We invest in developing value-chain-based cooperation models and create means for efficient transfer of knowledge and technology from research institutions to businesses. Support will be provided via, inter alia, incubation and acceleration programs, trainings, master classes, mentoring and development programs, consultations and fostering the development of international and intersectoral cooperation. Support the involvement of technology- and development-intensive investments, in particular in smart specialisation areas. Furthermore, support will be provided for services necessary for increasing innovation capability of SMEs. In addition SME cooperation will be facilitated and supported by existing cluster initiatives and new network activities. Support for the growth and expansion of companies in existing and new export markets, including through finding the necessary contacts, a network of foreign representatives, participation in trade fairs, consulting, targeted services based on target markets and promoting business cooperation and joint activities. Businesses' capability for market analysis, market signal detection, developing market-directed products and services and marketing products and services, will be increased. Businesses' capability for integrated sales and marketing management when entering international markets will be increased, e.g. via seminars, training, and growth and development programmes. Increasing the international visibility of Estonian companies, including through business diplomacy and targeted promotion and marketing will be addressed.

Regional gap in competitiveness of enterprises in Estonia remains large. Regional differences are prominent in the added value, in exports, in the ability to implement research and development, and in entrepreneurial activity. In South-East Estonia, additional support will be provided for SME productive investments to speed the uptake of new technologies and to increase the value added per employee.

However, support for improving access to finance (capital) for SMEs will include activities to create a competitive and flexible investment environment in all regions of Estonia, including by ensuring suitable financing opportunities.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

Ambitious and growth-savvy SME-s (including SMEs in South-East Estonia) in various sectors, including creative economy and tourism; start-ups, including technology-intensive businesses, and new and established regional businesses.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Entire Estonia, South-East Estonia

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

The Nordics and the Baltics are developing real-time economy action plans and projects for upcoming periods in parallel with Estonia. Therefore it is crucial for Estonia to actively cooperate and agree with the Baltics and the Nordics to synchronise their actions towards developing common standards and economic transaction data semantics. Cooperation with these countries will help Estonian businesses execute cross-border transactions easier and more efficiently, with support functions operating largely automatically with no excessive intervention, similarly to what is planned domestically.

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

Financial instruments in the form of loans and guarantees will be implemented.

2.1.1.3.2 Indicators

Table 16: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC001	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC002	Enterprises supported by grants	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC003	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC004	Enterprises with non-financial support	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC005	New enterprises supported	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC015	Capacity of incubation created	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RC0103	High growth enterprises supported	<i>enterprises</i>		

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR12	Users of new and upgraded digital services, products and processes developed by enterprises	<i>annual users</i>					
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR13	Enterprises reaching high digital intensity	<i>enterprises</i>					
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	<i>enterprises</i>					
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR18	SMEs using incubator services after incubator creation	<i>enterprises</i>					
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR19	Enterprises with higher turnover	<i>enterprises</i>					
1	(iii)	ERDF	Transition	RCR25	SMEs with higher value added per employee	<i>enterprises</i>					

2.1.1.3.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	iii		
1	ERDF	Transition	iii		

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	ERDF	Transition	iii		
1	ERDF	Transition	iii		

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 21: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 22: Dimension 7 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.2. ENHANCING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY [KOGU PEATÜKI TEKST 2.04 SEISUGA]

<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation *
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 2(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 2(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation

2.1.2.1 Specific objective: (v) enhancing digital connectivity

2.1.2.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 char]

<p>The support for the construction of a very high capacity access network shall be granted in those sparsely populated areas, where companies are not able or willing to invest themselves, including territories in North-East and South-East.</p> <p>Estonia has invested in building 7000 km of backhaul networks in sparsely populated areas, which is a prerequisite for building very high capacity access networks. However, there are about 65,000 addresses in the "white" market failure areas. The detailed mapping of addresses or "white" areas will be done before granting support (2021-2022). Priority will be given to territories, which are lagging behind the most and expect demand growth, in order to ensure efficiency and take-up of broadband.</p> <p>Support for the development of the necessary infrastructure for 5G coverage will be provided in major transport corridors and in residential and business areas. The widespread deployment of 5G networks requires significant investments by private sector, not only in the terms of 5G-specific infrastructure, but also in the terms of increasing the coverage of the backhaul network and base stations. In order to unlock the potential of 5G technology, it is important that the service is available not only as a pilot project but also in a larger scale where commercial investments are not profitable. The 7,000 km backhaul network provides a good opportunity to invest in 5G infrastructure and services. 5G corridors and areas of market failure will be determined before the granting of state support (2022-2023).</p> <p>Investments contribute to closing the digital divide between urban and sparsely populated areas and create possibilities for businesses and people to develop and use new services.</p>

The main target groups [1000 char]

The main target group is the potential end-user of high-speed broadband and 5G service - private households (residents), a business or a public sector organization that does not have access to next-generation broadband and 5G networks or is in a low-connectivity area.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 char]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Interventions are being prepared in cooperation with private market service providers and local governments. Areas of market failure will be determined in interventions prior to granting support – priority will be given to territories lagging behind to reduce regional disparities.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Entire country, but more focus on lagging behind territories like South-East Estonia and North-East.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned uses of territorial tools [2000 char]

Entire country, but more focus on lagging behind territories like South-East Estonia and North-East.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 char]

5G crossborder corridors with Latvia and Lithuania

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 char]

n/a

2.1.2.1.2 Indicators

Table 23: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	RCO41	Additional dwellings with broadband access to very high capacity broadband network	<i>dwellings</i>		
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	RCO42	Additional enterprises with access to very high capacity broadband network	<i>enterprises</i>		
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	PSO06	Base stations for 5G	base stations		

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	RCR53	Dwellings with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network	<i>dwellings</i>					
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	RCR54	Enterprises with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network	Enterprises					
1	(v)	ERDF	Transition	PSR05	Transport corridors with 5G coverage	length of transport corridors with uninterrupted 5G coverage					

2.1.2.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	v		
2	ERDF	Transition	v		

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	v		
2	ERDF	Transition	v		

Table 27: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 28: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 29: Dimension 6 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.3. A GREENER ESTONIA [KOGU PEATÜKI TEKST 2.07 SEISUGA]

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 2(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 2(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation

2.1.3.1. Specific objective: (i) promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

2.1.3.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

<p>Renovation support through grants and financial instruments has an immediate positive impact on inhabitants. Deep renovation in housing means that energy consumption of the building will drastically lower and living conditions will improve through better indoor climate and overall housing quality, for example accessibility. Renovation has also an important impact in rural areas where market failure is common because supporting schemes for renovation help to create a competitive quality housing that is comparable to the urban areas in Estonia, thus narrowing divide between the regions.</p> <p>1. Grant for renovation of the apartment buildings</p> <p>In Estonia, 70% of population lives in apartment buildings. If the renovation of apartment buildings fails to pick up speed, there will be approximately 200,000 residents living in dwellings that have reached the end of their life expectancy in 2030. The measure will be implemented in all regions, but grants will be differentiated so that</p>
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higher amounts of grant will go to the areas with lower real estate prices (market failure areas). Statistics regarding renovation grant scheme show few applications from Ida-Viru county, Valga county and other peripheral regions.

Renovation of apartment buildings is stimulated through grants and loans, thus allowing to reach targets regarding improvement of energy efficiency of housing stock and indoor climate. Loans will be provided in circumstances when credit institutions do not offer loans to apartment associations or provide loans under conditions unreasonable in comparison with market average. Loan facility is beneficial for peripheral regions where average real estate transaction prices are low and creditors consider risks too high. More detailed terms and conditions, including housing investment fund for loans, are under development.

2. Grant for phase-based renovation of the apartment buildings in peripheral regions

By the year 2030, Estonia will have approximately 1,000 problematic, partially populated apartment buildings. Partially populated apartment buildings (the associations) are not capable of maintaining the building due to cost breakdown. In peripheral areas, it is necessary to implement a support measure that divides deep renovation into smaller working packages targeting energy savings and facilitating phase-based renovation of buildings to prevent their further degradation. Building renovation passport would support the consistency of the renovation of the apartment building and positive experience is a prerequisite for the complete deep renovation and ensures the safety of housing stock. Transition to more sustainable energy consumption upon production and distribution of heat through boiler units and renovation of heat pipeline represent an important measure for increasing energy efficiency and the uptake of renewables. It also contributes to reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions in energy sector. That allows reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and improve ambient air quality in the cities and reduce its impact on human health.

The renovation measures will support better living standards in old apartment buildings based on today's quality criteria – lower energy costs, improved indoor climate, better accessibility, avoidance of further deterioration of the apartment buildings. Renovation measures will provide dwellings with better quality which will also grant better access to workforce for local businesses due to the positive influence on the attractiveness of local living environment.

Reduction of carbon emissions in transport sector contributes directly to alleviation of climate change, improves the quality of urban air and has positive effect on public health. That requires facilitation of transition to more sustainable energy consumption (renewable energy) in public transport by supporting the introduction of CNG-powered buses and construction of CNG filling stations. Public regular service procurement period is ending in for instance Valga, Võru, Põlva, Järva, Jõgeva and Rapla county. Estimated total is 260 buses. All these buses could use renewable fuel – biomethane. Introduction of around 260 CNG-powered buses means additional biomethane consumption of 55 GWh. Such consumption is expected to demand production of corresponding amount of biomethane. Up to 10 additional CNG filling stations should be established to provide these buses with biomethane.

As for local heat supply sector, it is important to promote new technologies and, where possible, support connecting private houses to district heating network and replace existing household heating stoves with new renewable ones which meet the stricter emission limit. Development of such measure would contribute directly to reduction of air pollution in cities and it should be first implemented in areas, where air quality limit and/or target values are exceeded.

Main tool for checking the efficiency of measures implemented for reducing emissions of air pollutants and general environmental policy is air quality assessment. It is crucial to assess the impact of such substances both to ecosystem and human health. Integrated assessment allows to provide the society with clear reasoning of the relevance of implemented measures. For that purpose, exposure to air pollutants will be linked to personal health risks. Greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions from private sector are directly linked to personal choices of each individual and households. This allows influencing the behavior of population (e.g. altering their heating habits), which leads to reduced emissions from heating private houses and improved energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emission.

Supported areas:

- 1) transition to more sustainable energy consumption (energy efficiency, renewable energy) upon production and distribution of heat through renovation of boiler units and heat pipeline. Support is given to only non-fossil investments;
- 2) transition to more sustainable energy consumption (renewable energy) in public transport by introduction of CNG-powered buses and supporting construction of CNG filling stations. Support is granted to projects in rural areas (e.g. Valga, Võru, Rapla) that involve introduction of buses that run on biomethane;

- 3) replacement of outdated solid fuel heaters with heaters complying with environmental requirements in densely populated areas and connection to district heating network. Support is given to only non-fossil investments;
- 4) development of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring network and improved distribution of monitoring data for assessment of efficiency of measures implemented and informing the population;
- 5) creation of location-based health risk assessment system and making the population aware of health risks caused by air quality.

Interventions help to reach the targets of renovation volumes set for 2050. Residents will have reduced energy consumption and expenditure, leading to overall positive effect on Estonian economy.

Fossil fuel boiler units are renovated into boiler units powered by renewable fuels to the extent of max 21 MW, district heating pipeline is renovated to the extent of max 55 km. Transition from using fossil fuels for district heating to using renewables and replacing old district heating pipes with new energy efficient ones helps to futureproof the district heating systems, making them more resilient to the coming changes (increase of fossil fuel prices, risks stemming from climate change (e.g. flooding, storms)). It also contributes towards attaining our energy and climate targets. Private houses in densely populated areas will be subject to replacement of outdated solid fuel heaters and support will be granted to connect to district heating network approximately of 1 850 residential buildings. Boilers should be compliant with the legal and sustainability requirements, i.e. energy efficient equipment in accordance with eco-design and energy labelling standards..

National monitoring network has been modernized and allows assessment of levels of relevant air pollutants and greenhouse gases like methane and SLCP-s (such as black carbon). Combination of measuring network and modelling system allows assessing the levels of corresponding compounds across the whole territory of Estonia with sufficient spatial resolution.

Average pollutant content of ambient air in densely populated areas has decreased by up to 20%. Total emissions of air pollutants with short-term climate impact emitted to ambient air in Estonia has reduced by 10%. The number of deaths caused by exposure to pollutant content in ambient air has reduced by 20%.

3. Energy efficiency of healthcare sector infrastructure

The COVID-19 crisis has brought into sharper focus on the healthcare infrastructure. The infrastructure of Estonian county hospitals is outdated. County hospitals were built in the 1950s and 1970s, in several counties even earlier (e.g. 1906, 1938, etc.). Buildings are often too large, inefficiently used and they raise fixed costs. Increasing the energy efficiency of the infrastructure of county hospitals will ensure optimal and cost-effective solutions. It also helps to achieve cost-effectiveness, save on administrative costs, improve energy efficiency and get rid of excess space which has overall impact on the sustainability of health care sector. The development of energy efficiency in county hospitals goes hand in hand with the investments necessary for the integration of the health and social spheres and the creation of county welfare centers, which are supported by ERDF funds in PO4.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

Apartment associations, local government units, private houses/apartment buildings in densely populated areas that use solid fuel heaters, district heating providers, integrated welfare centres, companies providing public regular service, fuel suppliers, policymakers, population exposed to pollutants in urban air, general public.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Regarding energy efficiency measures in housing sector, the focus is to provide balanced measures to housing improvement across the regions to avoid disparities including energy poverty. Due to low property cost outside urban regions, also phase-based energy efficiency measures are considered instead of deep renovation where all the necessary improvements are made at once. Because of the large share of old apartment buildings and near non-existent new housing developments in most of the regions, eligible jobs regarding energy efficiency improvements include accessibility to provide better access for all inhabitants. Accessibility is especially important because of the growing proportion of the elderly and people with special needs in the society.

Also, The National Long-term Strategy for Building Renovation included relevant stakeholders to consider related proposals that would guarantee wider benefits regarding energy efficiency – accessibility, safety, regional shrinkage.

The relevant measures to boost the share of biomethane in transport and the boosting RES in district heating and cooling will be developed by including the relevant sectors (i.e. the transport and district heating companies). The measures will be publicly available for all of the market participants.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Entire Estonia, however, specific focus is put on ensuring a high regional/rural benefit. Since so far more than 60% of grants were distributed in Tallinn and Tartu and their neighbouring areas, during the next programming period more focus is on the regional dimension and higher percentage of grants will go to the areas with the lower real estate price. This is primarily achieved by allocating certain amount of financing to regions based on average real estate transaction prices and the amount of apartment buildings per region.

Connecting residential buildings to district heating networks or renovation of solid fuel heater: densely populated areas in major cities.

Supporting renovation and construction of district heating systems and boiler units (incl. investments in medium combustion plants): entire Estonia.

Facilitating introduction of biomethane: rural areas currently without CNG filling stations (e.g. Valga, Põlva, Rapla).

Improvement and updating the air monitoring network and air pollutants modelling system that covers entire Estonia.

Investing in social infrastructure; specific investment objects will be chosen on the basis of regional and socio-economical profiles and priority will be given to the objects in most disadvantaged positions.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

Financial instruments in housing sector energy efficiency improvements will be used to reduce regional disparities and provide means for areas where market failure is present. To implement a loan facility, an investment fund will be developed that will provide suitable interest rates and repayment period for the renovation of housing stock. Also, synergies between financial instrument and grant will be possible.

2.1.3.1.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	i	ERDF	Transition	PSO01	Dwellings with better technical building systems and loadbearing structures	dwellings	3 600	8 100
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO18	Dwellings with improved energy performance	dwellings	13 800	32 000

2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO22	Additional production capacity for renewable energy of which: thermal	MW	7	21
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO20	District heating and cooling network lines newly constructed or improved	km	15	55
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO59	Alternative fuels infrastructure (recharging points)	refuelling /recharging points	3	10
2	i	ERDF	Transition	PSO05	Residential buildings with improved heating system	dwelling	230	1 850
2	i	ERDF	Transition	PSO06	Air quality assessment and monitoring systems	nr	4	16
2	i	CF	-	RCO19	Public buildings with improved energy performance	square metres	0	40 000

Table 31: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCR26	Annual primary consumption (of which dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)	MWh/year	3 100 000	2020	2 978 000		
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCR29	Estimated greenhouse gas emission	tons of CO2eq/year	2 168 000	2018, 2020	2 138 230		
2	i	ERDF	Transition	PSR01	Additional biomethane used in transportation per year	GWh	63	2019	118		
2	i	ERDF	Transition	RCR50	Population benefiting from measures for air quality	persons	32 000	2020	653 150	Monitoring system, Population register	

2.1.3.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 32: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	i	041	103 700 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	042	280 800 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	044	16 200 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	045	6 300 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	049	12 000 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	077	10 000 000
2	CF	-	i	044	30 000 000

Table 33: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	i	01	358 800 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	03	70 200 000
2	CF	-	i	01	30 000 000

Table 34: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	i	33	402 000 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	28	12 000 000
2	ERDF	Transition	i	32	15 000 000
2	CF	-	i	25	30 000 000

Table 35: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 36: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.3.2. Specific objective: (iv) promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

2.1.3.2.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

1) Supporting the measures of flood related risk management plan, which reduce flood effects in identified risk areas and prevent occurrence of risk areas related to new floods. Risk management includes flood protection, flood preparedness, flood forecasting and early warning systems. Grants for investments that reduce the risk for coastal erosion, floods and water scarcity problems with a focus on prevention in coastal areas and riverbanks of Estonia.

2) Restoration of wetlands, rivers, lakes and oxbow lakes including water bodies in poor condition to increase preparedness for adaptation to climate change. Interventions rely on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030, Natura 2000 Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) for 2021 to 2027, and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives. The latter goal is also to enhance biodiversity in urban areas.

3) Support combined stormwater solutions to deal with stormwater problems in densely populated areas.

4) Increasing rescue management capacities and preparedness for coping with extreme weather conditions. This includes: raising people awareness, maritime rescue, forest fire fighting, search and rescue (SAR), but also crisis management capacities and capacities necessary for the rescue centers for also the general rescue operations that have derived from the risk analysis. The rescue services have to be ready to respond to emergencies anytime, therefore we also need to ensure the self-sufficiency of rescue capacities like buildings, communications. This intervention is based on the Internal Security Strategy 2020-2030 and on the National Adaptation Strategy where is a sub goal 1 (Improved rescue capacity and the ability of people to protect their health and property has reduced the negative effect of climate change on health and the quality of life.) and measure 1.2 related to increasing rescue capability.

5) Protecting water area of the ports and reconstruction of the coastal waterways for securing the public ferry transport. Protection of water area from the effects of climate change - increased storms, changes in major coastal wind directions and longer storm periods due to ice-free winters with consequent rapid changes in sea levels and floods, foresee the construction of breakwaters in the ports securing regional mobility and regular public transport to Estonian islands. The effects of climate change have also led to deterioration of navigation conditions of the waterways in shallow coastal seas. In order to avoid disruptions in public ferry transport, existing waterways must be reconstructed and alternative passages must be built to ensure regular public maritime transport. In terms of increasing extreme winds and floods, it is important to upgrade public ports and waterways to be climate resilient to ensure better adaptation with the climate changes for the Estonian population living on the islands.

The most affected area here is Estonian western coastline and archipelago. There is immediate need for breakwaters in Rohuküla and Heltermaa ports, securing the public ferry traffic to Estonia's second biggest island Hiiumaa. The waterways between these ports must be reconstructed to apply to maritime safety conditions (Rukki channel, Heltermaa channel, Kuivarahu passage).

On smaller remote islands additional breakwaters are needed in harbours securing the connection to Ruhnu (Ringsu port) and Kihnu (Kihnu port). Securing public transportation to the islands and avoiding disruptions in public ferry transport is essential to maintain and enliven permanent inhabitation and services on islands.

Investments to develop and modernize the meteorological (incl. radar network), environmental and hydrological monitoring network and weather radar network. In order to reduce the negative impact on health and quality of life, it is also necessary to invest in environmental monitoring systems (both in-situ and remote monitoring (meteorological radars) to produce/ensure reliable weather forecasts and early warnings of dangerous weather events. The data received from the meteorological and hydrological monitoring network are the basis for weather forecasts and warnings. In addition, meteorological and hydrological data can be used for research and other new digital services.

6) Increase awareness of risks and opportunities involved in climate change. Raising awareness of climate change through information campaigns, trainings, information days and educational programs on adaptation and mitigation, both among the population in general and among local government land use, planning specialists, planners and architects.

Main output of implementation of adaptation measures consists in increased public awareness and ensuring climate risk management and operative preparedness.

Supporting of flood risk management measures helps to reduce damage arising from the effects of climate change to economic and natural environment. The measures of flood related risk management plan have been implemented. Reduction of effects of flood in 16 flood related risk areas and prevention of emergence of new flood related risk areas.

Restoration of wetlands, mitigate climate change and increase preparedness for adaptation, including reducing flood risks and forest fires. CO2 sequestration through restoration of wetland (mires) mitigates climate change (e.g. restoration of one hectare of mire will absorb ca 800 kg of carbon per year), also restoration of mires reduces fire risks and contributes to maintaining clean water supplies. Restoration of river habitats and wet forests reduces the impact of unwanted floods. Restoration of hydromorphology of rivers and lakes reduces the water scarcity problems during droughts and improves the ecological status of waterbodies.

Improvement the statuses of bodies of water in a poor status:

- a) Support for removing of sediments from lakes in poor statuses and utilisation of sediments, incl. support for development of technologies for increasing the value of lake sediments;
- b) Restoration of natural hydromorphology of watercourses in a poor state due to hydromorphologic load, incl. restoration of natural riverbed, opening oxbow lakes and other landscaping activities;
- c) Improvement of water exchange in bodies of water, biomanipulation and other technical activities resulting in good condition of the body of water.

The geographical coverage of the restoration of wetlands and improvement of the statuses of the bodies of water is the whole territory of Estonia according to the small surface and dense surface water network of Estonia.

Supporting of combined stormwater solutions reduces the load on sewage treatment plants, which eventually translates into reduced price of water services for end user. Reduced effect of stormwater floods in densely populated areas, establishment of at least 10 separate sewer systems.

Enhanced rescue management and preparedness to cope with extreme weather conditions.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

Local government units, local population, universities and researchers, enterprises and entrepreneurs, NGOs, companies, incl. water companies in 100% ownership of local government, Rescue Board, Estonian Association of Planners, Estonian Association of Architects, educational institutions, tourists, all Estonian population.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Flood risk areas (Pärnu city; Võiste small town; Häädemeeste small town; Virtsu small town; Kuressaare city and Nasva small town; Kärđla city, Haapsalu city, Tartu city, Aardlapalu village, Võru city, Tallinn city (Haabersti, North Tallinn, City Centre and Pirita), Kiisa small town and Maidla village, Maardu city, Paide city, Sindi city, Raasiku small town).

Other activities: entire Estonia.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

At transnational level we strive to strengthen coordination and better knowledge exchange of climate related disaster prevention preparedness and response between Baltic States countries. In addition, we continually support the participation of Estonian universities in various projects under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

n/a

2.1.3.2.2 Indicators

Table 37: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	iv	ERDF	Transition	RC025	Coastal strip, river bank and lakeshore	km	1	7

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					flood protection newly built or consolidated				
2	iv	CF	-	PSO07	Surface area of habitats supported to improve conservation status	ha	500	11 400	
2	iv	CF	-	RCO26	Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change	ha	100	350	
2	iv	CF	-	PSO02	Number of municipalities where trainings, seminars and information days have been carried out and/or climate adaptation and mitigation measures (at local level) have been implemented	number of municipalities	7	60	
2	iv	CF	-	RCO24	Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	eur	3 500 000	5 220 000	
2	iv	CF	-	PSO03	Area occupied by water remediation activities	ha	0	300	
2	iv	CF	-	RCO28	Areas covered by protection measures against wildfires	ha	720 000	1 200 000	
2	iv	CF	-	PSO04	Safeguarded ports to face climate change	number of ports	2	4	

Table 38: Result indicators											
Pri ority	Speci fic objective	Fund	Categ ory of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measure ment unit	Baselin e or referen ce value	Refere nce year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Com ment s [200]
2	iv	ERDF	Transi tion	RCR35	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	0	2021	35 000		
2	iv	CF	-	RCR35	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	0	2021	65 000		
2	iv	CF	-	PSR02	Percentage of people who are aware of and act on the	percentag e	59	2019	85	Eurobarometer	

					effects of climate change						
2	iv	CF	-	RCR96	Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	persons	0	2021	200 000		
2	iv	CF	-	PSR03	Number of bodies of water that have improved from poor to good status	number of water bodies	0	2021	2		
2	iv	CF	-	PSR04	Number of sites where the conservation status of habitats and species has improved due to support	number of sites	0	2020	60		
2	iv	CF	-	RCR36	Population benefiting from wildfire protection measures	persons	0	2020	400 000		
2	iv	CF	-	PSR05	Long-term operational reliability of liner shipping ports is guaranteed	useful lifespan in years	25	2020	50		

2.1.3.2.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 39: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	iv	058	16 210 229
2	CF	-	iv	058	34 400 000
2	CF	-	iv	059	27 450 000
2	CF	-	iv	060	13 600 000
2	CF	-	iv	064	4 000 000
2	CF	-	iv	078	16 000 000
2	CF	-	iv	079	2 550 000

Table 40: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	iv	01	16 210 229
2	CF	-	iv	01	98 000 000

Table 41: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	iv	33	16 210 229
2	CF	-	iv	30	9 500 000
2	CF	-	iv	33	88 500 000

Table 42: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 43: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.3.3. Specific objective: (vi) promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

2.1.3.3.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

Main objective of interventions is to drive further the transition to circular economy (CE) and address all levels of waste hierarchy in order to prevent and reduce waste generation and establish production and consumption models that take into account sustainable design principles for the whole resource chain.

There are five interventions:

1. Grant for prevention and reduction of waste generation and packaging, reuse of products.

According to CE principles, these should be the priority. Actions contribute to reduction of GHG, as they decrease the need to produce new materials and products. The target group is reuse centers, enterprises that practice reuse, e.g. repair cafes, enterprises that practice reducing packaging and other waste prevention, and those who want to pilot their solutions or expand significantly the use of such solutions. Measures are linked with improved role of consumers and business models which support sustainable product policy implementation in first stages of resource use chain.

2. Grant for implementing CE based production and consumption models and training of relevant experts, industrial symbiosis and reduction of damage from raw material sourcing.

Increase the share of secondary raw materials is needed by creating CE cooperation projects for more efficient use of resources of B2B cooperation, as well as industrial symbiosis – using production residues generated in the production process in one enterprise as an input in production process of another enterprise. There is potential of bioeconomy to produce high value chemicals, design innovative wooden products and biobased materials, healthy and sustainable food systems. Development of CE production models reduces the need to acquire raw materials and related damage in the future, as well as eliminate already caused damage by applying industrial symbiosis and restoration of sources of raw materials. Interventions must improve development of regions and industrial parks. One part of encouraging the use of secondary raw material is systemization of formerly used and now abandoned sources of raw materials, starting with sites that endanger human and animal health or have direct negative impact on natural environment, which help regions that are influenced by them and might also be less developed to be more attractive to producers and citizens.

It is also important to raise awareness of sustainable production and consumption practices and behaviour as well as to have relevant experts who would provide additional support to enterprises and local governments to provide sufficient expertise, with special focus on less developed regions. Therefore, we would move from already trained resource efficiency experts to training CE experts. Competent experts who assist enterprises and local governments in comprehensive technical analysis of their activities, are a prerequisite for the development of CE based production and development models. CE is an integrated material circulation concept that connects various fields of activity and its comprehensive implementation requires improved competence of experts in areas covered by CE. Local governments would get recommendations for CE related investments for their regional plans.

3. Grant for energy and resource efficiency of industrial and service sector and conducting resource efficiency audits.

We will continue with improving resource efficiency, including energy efficiency. However, main focus should shift to CE on a broader scale in order to improve economic competitiveness. There are competent resource efficiency specialists (auditors) in place and awareness of resource efficiency of enterprises has increased. Enterprises have shown great interest in the measure and there is a need for additional funding based on completed resource audits. Measure will be further improved and the target group extended in addition to manufacturing sector to include the service sector. It will also be more linked with energy efficiency, digitalization and automation. Such combination will increase interlinkages and effectiveness of support measures. The measure contributes to the implementation of the obligation to reduce GHG in Estonia and improvement of Estonian resource productivity. When planning measures, it is important that it will be based on environmental benefits to be consistent with goals of current policy objective and that other innovative and smart solutions will be supported elsewhere.

4. Grant for separate collection infrastructure.

Quality of secondary raw materials is needed for new business models and it requires high rate of separate collection and management of materials. Functional and effective unified waste collection is a prerequisite for efficient waste management system, including using digital solutions. Local governments are the main partner for the state for municipal waste. Based on the feedback, there is still significant need for civic amenity sites, containers, composters and other smart collection solutions in near future, which cannot be covered from fixed costs. There are other large scale waste streams, which need a comprehensive collection system. National priority is to develop fully the entire waste management infrastructure and it requires significant investments into developing a smart and effective infrastructure. The capacity of local governments needs to be improved, including collecting separately hazardous waste through civic amenity sites and collection rounds. Trained experts would consult local governments and give recommendations that are suitable for their regions and originality. Ministry of the Environment has started with visits by waste management staff and compiled guidance and recommendations.

5. Grant for waste recycling and safe recycling of materials.

Specific focus will be given to supporting waste management solutions and sectoral innovation. Secondary materials wasted pose a problem across entire EU due to lacking waste management capacities. Prerequisite for recycling consists of supporting waste collection infrastructure and capacities for identifying and managing hazardous substances in the waste to ensure safe material circulation and promote product development for replacing hazardous substances in production processes and in products. Measures support treatment plants for preparing separately collected waste for reuse and recycling by establishing sufficient capacities.

Interventions are fully supported and in line with the Estonia 2035 and the new national waste management plan (NWMP), the latter focusing on four main pillars - sustainable and conscious production and consumption, promoting waste prevention and reuse, including national waste prevention programme, increasing safe circulation of materials and consideration of the impacts of waste management on both the human and the natural environment.

As a result of the interventions there will be enterprises in Estonia that use resources efficiently and are sustainable and competitive on global market. Estonia features enterprises practicing new CE business models. Achieved implementation of separate collection of waste and targets set for waste management. There are more CE experts who assist both public and private sector. There are increased capacities for waste management on the higher levels of the waste hierarchy and the use of secondary raw materials for production has increased.

Investments will generate more value in CE for businesses, including in manufacturing and waste management sector. Natural resources are used more efficiently by reducing pressure on environment. Interventions would also reduce regional disparities as enterprises in rural areas have difficulties to get additional private financing

as the value of land is low. Also less developed municipalities would benefit from support as their capacity to invest is limited.

Where relevant, we will encourage GPP.

The main target groups [1 000 characters]

SMEs, large enterprises (mainly small mid-caps), NGOs, reuse centers, circular economy and resource efficiency experts, local governments, associations of local governments, waste management enterprises, manufacturing enterprises using more waste and less chemicals in their production. Circular economy transition needs contribution from all stakeholders, therefore we envisage supporting large enterprises as well, mainly small mid-caps, who would have larger effect on influencing on other parties and set sustainable production as a norm.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2 000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2 000 characters]

All over Estonia, focusing on balanced regional development and keeping in mind the need to ensure measures to support regions with different capacities. As Estonia is small, solutions should be encouraged all over Estonia. Projects in rather less developed regions will be preferred if applicable. Implementing circular economy-based production and consumption models, including repair and reuse activities, separate waste collection practices, local waste treatment solutions (for example composting) and reduction of damage from legacy pollution or remedying the impacts of environmental degradation, including mining.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2 000 characters]

Estonia and Latvia have Interreg project (Estonia-Latvia) PACKGDEPO (2021-2022) to encourage improvements and cross-border cooperation for packaging deposit systems. There have also been discussions about potential cooperation project between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia for harmonisation of cross-border movement and reporting of hazardous waste. Circular economy and its solutions are important part of different Interreg programs in new period.

The planned use of financial instruments [1 000 characters]

As business models and developing of quality resource streams based on circular economy still pose higher risk marginals in investments and could have longer payback periods compared to more conventional projects, we assessed that financial instruments will not solve the market barriers with sufficient momentum to incentivise action, that grants will. We also see how the coronavirus has hampered the investments lately, causing even higher uncertainty in the markets. For a green and circular recovery, it will be essential to provide sufficient incentives for a green transition as soon as possible. A study to assess possibility to use financial instruments will be conducted.

2.1.3.3.1 Indicators

Table 44: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	vi	CF	-	PSO08	Enterprises supported in circular economy	enterprises	20	150
2	vi	CF	-	RCO107	Investment in facilities for	eur	16 000 000	53 293 463

					separate waste collection			
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Table 45: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
2	vi	CF	-	PSR06	Primary raw materials saved by projects	tonnes/year	0	2021	80 000		
2	vi	CF	-	RCR103	Waste collected separately	tonnes/year	0	2021	45 000		

2.1.3.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 46: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	CF	-	vi	067	35 528 963
2	CF	-	vi	069	35 000 000
2	CF	-	vi	071	6 000 000
2	CF	-	vi	075	24 500 000
2	CF	-	vi	076	10 000 000

Table 47: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	CF	-	vi	01	111 028 963

Table 6: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	CF	-	vi	33	111 028 963

Table 48: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 49: Dimension 5 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.4. SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY [KOGU PEATÜKI TEKST 2.07 SEISUGA]

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 2(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 2(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation

2.1.4.1 Specific objective: (viii) promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy

2.1.4.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

Investments in sustainable urban mobility will be supported with three types of activities: construction of cycling path core networks and improving bike parking possibilities, development of intermodal passenger transport hubs and development of tram traffic. Activities will be eligible in Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu functional urban areas (tram traffic only in Tallinn), because addressing those bottlenecks in those areas have the most impact (most problematic areas). In addition, development of cycling paths in Ida-Viru urban areas will also be eligible under policy objective 5.

Construction of interconnected cycling path core networks, including storage areas and passageways will be supported to promote sustainable means of transport and improve safety in cities. The mileage of cycle paths to be built in 2021-2027 depends very much on the needs of the accompanying infrastructure restructuring, on which the cost of 1 km of cycle path development also depends on. For example, the estimated length of the bicycle core network is 165 km in Tallinn, in Tartu approximately 40 km etc and the need for new core network bicycle roads in those three urban areas is up to 150 km. Construction of core cycling networks and linking those with existing cycle routes (including rather well developed connections from neighbouring municipalities to city borders) is crucial for creating a comprehensive regional cycling network. Tallinn and Tartu have recently developed their cycling strategies which will be taken into account in intervention planning ([Tallinn Cycling Strategy 2018-2028](https://www.tallinn.ee/est/ehitus/Tallinna-Rattastrateegia-2018-2028)⁶, Tartu Cycling Strategic Action Plan 2019-2040⁷, strategic document for Pärnu is being drafted).

Development of intermodal passenger transport hubs including Park&Ride car parks, bicycle parking, real-time platforms will be supported. With offering good solutions for first and last mile mobility it will help to increase the catchment area of public transit and improve connections between urban centres and the surrounding countryside resulting in safer and quicker journeys, effectively connecting peoples' home and workplaces better, thus improving competitiveness of alternative modes of transportation and help reduce car dependency. Hubs will enable transfers between different modes of transport. The existing park & ride lots in Tallinn are overloaded and in combination with public transport developments (including tram traffic), such solutions will become more attractive also for people commuting from outside the Tallinn urban area.

Development of Tallinn tram traffic will be supported to increase the proportion of people commuting by tram (reducing the use of cars) by expanding the network of tramways. The selection of routes is based on the

⁶ <https://www.tallinn.ee/est/ehitus/Tallinna-Rattastrateegia-2018-2028>

⁷ https://tartu.ee/sites/default/files/uploads/Linnavarad/SECAP/Tartu%20jalgrattaliikluse%20strateegiline%20tegevuskaava_Final_22042019.pdf

feasibility and cost-benefit analysis of light rail transport in Tallinn and Harju County. It is necessary to combine funding to achieve 100% coverage and the indicative list is: Viimsi, Rae (Peetri), Center-Endla, Mustamäe (Sõpruse), Stroomi, Tondi-Tammsaare road, Lasnamäe, Tondi-Järve, about 50 km in total. The estimated average price is around 2.5 million euros (simpler sections) per kilometre. In more difficult sections (intersections, city centre) the price might be up to 10 million per kilometre. After indication and framework agreement that new tramway support will be available, then the cities can start making designs and procurements. After preparations it may take up to 5 years, depending on the routes. The city must propose the most viable routes, while considering fiscal, schedule (i.e. time frame for the usage of funds) and other limitations.

Proposed actions need to be consistent with national Transport and Mobility Strategy 2021-2035⁸ (in preparation) and local mobility strategies which are specified with more detailed sectoral development plans (for example Tallinn development strategy "Tallinn 2035" and Tallinn sustainable urban mobility plan 2035⁹).

Planned actions are part of transition to a net zero carbon economy with positive impacts to problems with accessibility, traffic congestion and emissions. Developing segregated cycle paths, establishing new tram links and building multimodal nodes are all important parts of promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, helping to improve the use of active mobility modes and efficiency and speed of public transport and its competitiveness in relation to private cars. As a result, those interventions will have positive impacts on decreasing travel times and costs, decreasing growing dependence on personal cars and the resulting inequalities, increasing travel by sustainable modes, decreasing transport-related energy consumption and CO2 emissions, also decreasing negative health effects and improving integration of land use and transport planning.

The main target groups [1 000 characters]

Estonian residents, tourists, entrepreneurs, residents of Tallinn capital region

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2 000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. Moving towards more sustainable transport and housing can bring considerable savings, in particular for low income households, at the same time improving transport accessibility and safety for society as a whole (including more vulnerable groups as elderly, children, disabled people etc). For example, the yearly costs for owning and using a bike only amount to around 5% or 10% (for electric bicycles) to the costs for owning and using a car. By providing cheap transport options and alternatives (cycling, public transport, walking) we can help to make jobs and participation in social life better accessible to disadvantaged population groups. Developing sustainable means of transport also benefits in gender equality (research shows that women use more public transport or tend to benefit more from higher cycling levels).

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2 000 characters]

Functional urban areas of Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu and connections between these urban centres and suburbs, also bordering municipalities.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2 000 characters]

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments [1 000 characters]

n/a

2.1.4.1.2. Indicators

⁸ <https://www.mkm.ee/et/eesmargid-tegevused/transport/transpordi-ja-liikuvuse-arengukava-2021>

⁹ <https://www.tallinn.ee/est/liikuvuskava2035/>

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RC055	Length of new tram and metro lines	km	0	3
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RC054	New or modernised intermodal connections	intermodal connections	0	1
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RC058	Dedicated cycling infrastructure supported	km	0	10
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RC075	Strategies for integrated territorial development supported	contributions to strategies	0	1

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	PSR07	Annual users of new or modernised intermodal connections	users/year	0	2020	540 000		
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RCR64	Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure	users/year	0	2020	720 000		
2	viii	ERDF	Transition	RCR63	Annual users of new or modernised tram and metro lines	users/year	0	2020	720 000		

2.1.4.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	viii	081	54 000 000
2	ERDF	Transition	viii	083	42 000 000

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	ERDF	Transition	viii	01	96 000 000

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
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2	ERDF	Transition	viii	27	96 000 000
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Table 55: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 56: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.5. A MORE CONNECTED ESTONIA *[KOGU PEATÜKI TEKST 2.07 SEISUGA]*

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 2(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 2(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund regulation

2.1.5.1. Specific objective: (ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T

2.1.5.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

<p>Intense development of road network is necessary due to the obligation to complete TEN-T core network by 2030. Core TEN-T E263 Tallinn-Tartu-Võru-Luhamaa road completeness is at 22% (covering 64 km 2+2 and 2+1 road sections of 283 km in total). By the end of 2019, 19% of the Core TEN-T E67 Tallinn-Pärnu-Ikla road (covering 34 km of 2+2 and 2+1 road sections of 179 km in total) met road safety and environmental standards of the Regulation No 1315/2013. Comprehensive TEN-T E20 Tallinn-Narva road completeness is at 38% (covering 80 km of 2+2 road sections of 209 km in total). Abovementioned suggests TEN-T transport links are still inadequate and hinder the development of sectors that involve travelling or the transportation of goods. Investments mainly concern road safety (incl. ITS systems), reduction of travel time, road user costs and construction of environmental mitigation measures.</p> <p>Grants will be used in compliance with the requirements of Article 17.3 b) and Article 39.2 c) of Regulation (EU) No. 1315/2013 and will contribute to completion of TEN-T core network and access to them by constructing 2+1 or 2+2 road sections to meet road safety and environmental requirements. That also includes reconstruction of dangerous one level junctions to separated junctions, installation of proper lighting and noise barriers including safe parking areas. In terms of nature, animal fencing and ecoducts or green corridors (or</p>
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other alternative smart solutions) will be built, also putting focus on landscaping and planting as compensation measures, drainage to deal with heavy rains, climate change impact etc. Also, pedestrians' and cyclists' safety will be improved by bridges, tunnels and roads. Existing roads go through several settlements, so new road alignment with bypasses improves environment and living conditions of the settlements.

Investments into transport infrastructure are significant enablers for boosting growth and employment. The main benefits are improvement of traffic safety, reduction of travel time and boosting connectivity for people and businesses. It also helps to improve effectiveness of land use, attract both private and public sector investments in the area (development of logistics parks, housing projects and other property investments), reduce environmental costs (noise, CO₂, improvement of conditions of wildlife migration etc.) and has direct and indirect employment effects.

Preparations for the electrification of railway started in 2019. Today an electric train can travel from Tallinn to Turba, Paldiski and Aegviidu. By the end of 2029, the overhead network will be extended to Narva, Tartu, Koidula and Valka. In the course of electrification, a new 25 kV overhead line and new traction substations will be built to east and southeast of Tallinn. To the west of Tallinn, the existing 3 kV power system will remain in use. The aim of the project is to take railway transport to a new quality level and significantly reduce the environmental impact of the transport sector through the use of renewable energy in railway transport and to create infrastructure enabling to reach speeds up to 160 km/h (contributing to the climate objectives set by the European Union). As Estonia is in the Nordic open electricity market, renewable electricity is generated by all countries in the pool, purchased according to supply-demand and accessed when needed. Hence giving the ability to use railway transport system using renewable energy and reduce impact on the environment. Railway electrification has a direct impact towards reducing CO₂ emissions.

In order to increase safety and speed of railway passenger transport to 160 km/h from Tallinn to Narva and Tartu and 135 km/h to other directions, traffic management system will be renewed (this will not be done from Cohesion Fund).

Straightening the railway in Tallinn-Tartu and Tapa-Narva sections:

In order to achieve significant reduction in Tallinn-Tartu intercity trains' connection time to 1 h 36 minutes, it is necessary to straighten the railway route and adjust the geometry of the tracks to the requirements arising from the increase of speed limit. The railway line will be straightened based on the design speed of 160 km/h in approx. 28 places.

Reconstruction of Tallinn-Tartu, Tapa-Narva, Tartu – Koidula and Tartu-Valga sections:

The aim of the reconstruction of railway and facilities is to increase traffic safety and performance on problematic railway sections and to design these railway sections for speeds up to 160 km/h. The investment project on Tallinn-Tapa-Tartu railway line was started in 2018 and was financed from the state budget. The aim of the second stage of the project is to reconstruct those sections that were not included in the first stage.

Increasing capacity and reconstruction of Tallinn-Lelle section:

Tallinn-Rapla-Lelle (*TEN-T comprehensive rail network*) is an important railway trunk line for building sustainable public transport in Tallinn and its surrounding Harju and Rapla regions. It is a fast public transport mode to access Tallinn. Demand for this line is increasing and the need to provide denser and higher quality public transport is crucial to provide a good alternative for car. To increase the capacity of network and to provide more frequent train service the railway passings need to be built.

Rail Baltic

In order to maximise the efficiency of Rail Baltic and ensure synergies between Connecting Europe Facility and Cohesion Fund, local stops are built on the RB rail route between Tallinn and Ikla. The investment will contribute to regional development and save CO₂ emissions by enabling daily commute using an electric high-speed train. The locations of local stops have been set out in the county plans as part of the participation process. Local stops connect the hinterland to the city centres helping to reduce heavy traffic caused by passenger cars. Local stops will become small multimodal passenger terminals. The stops will have good access to existing road and cycling/walking infrastructure, they will be equipped with parking lots for bicycles and cars (incl. recharging possibilities for electric vehicles), a bus stop and other necessary facilities. The development of local stops on RB rail route ensures complementarity with the investments planned from PO2 S08, which also addresses problems and challenges related to growing dependence on personal cars and decreasing travel by sustainable modes.

Rail Baltic, the largest new railway in the Baltic States has two international passenger stations on the territory of Estonia – Ülemiste and Pärnu. Railway infrastructure of both of the stations is built using a contribution from Connecting Europe Facility. Pärnu passenger terminal and its surroundings will form a key transport node in

Pärnu, contributing to higher usage of public transport in the area; the investment also enhances accessibility of the station as public transport stops and parking areas will be created next to the terminal building, also surrounding streets will be refurbished. From the financing perspective, synergies in utilization of Connecting Europe Facility, Cohesion Funds and RRF (financing source of Ülemiste terminal building) are foreseen.

The planning and construction of Rail Baltic changes the landscape in all three affected counties in Estonia. New linear spatial objects as a high-speed railway bring about the need to reshape and rebuild existing connections that would be cut off due to the railway embankment. For this purpose, new traffic solutions in Kangru (Harju county) and Kohila (Rapla county) have to be built. 10 new level crossings with access ramps will be constructed beside the railway crossings that are financed from Connecting Europe Facility under the Rail Baltic project.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

International transport, entrepreneurs, locals, tourists.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. These could be adjustments in creating infrastructure according to principle 8-80. That means that infrastructure, information exchange, e-services etc must be comfortable both for 8 year old and 80 year old users. It includes details to improve the visibility and usability for all users with different needs and must be coherent to directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned uses of territorial tools [2000 characters]

There is territorial cohesion in electrifying the railroad in Tallinn-Narva section and strengthening the railroad in Tapa-Narva section, so that it takes Narva closer to the capital Tallinn.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions include reconstruction of public roads in the border area Pärnu-Ikla (Via Baltica). Also reconstruction of railroads in Tartu-Koidula and Tartu-Valga sections and construction of Rail Baltic railroad – the largest new railway in the Baltic States.

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

n/a

2.1.5.1.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
3	i	CF	Transition	RCO45	Length of roads reconstructed or modernised - TEN-T	km	19	41
3	i	CF	Transition	RCO49	Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - TEN-T	km	20	105

3	i	CF	Transition	RC053	New or modernised railway stations and stops	stations and stops	0	13
3	i	CF	Transition	PS001	Length of railways electrified - TEN-T	km	50	450

Table 58: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
3	i	CF	Transition	PSR 01	Fatalities on reconstructed or new road sections	fatalities/year	1,2 fatalities per year	2019	0,84 fatalities per year		
3	i	CF	Transition	PSR 03	Annual users of railways	Mln passenger/year	5,98 mln	2020	15 mln		

2.1.5.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 59: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF		ii		

Table 60: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF	Transition	i	087	134 100 000
3	CF	Transition	i	088	25 000 000
3	CF	Transition	i	096	129 697 000
3	CF	Transition	i	097	71 054 000
3	CF	Transition	i	100	113 124 000
3	CF	Transition	i	101	28 225 000

Table 61: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF	Transition	i	01	501 200 000

Table 62: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 63: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.5.2 Specific objective: (ii) developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

2.1.5.2.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

Better connections outside Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu urban areas

Outside the urban areas of Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu, support will be provided to municipalities' investments in infrastructure for active modes of transport, which will ensure safe and convenient access to public services, work, and public transportation (including Rail Baltic). The investments will contribute to regional development and save CO2 emissions by enabling daily commutes by walking or cycling. Better connections with public transportation also help to increase the overall use of sustainable modes of transport including mixed-mode commuting. Open calls for applications targeted to municipalities are the basis for project selection. Investments will increase safety, reduce spatial distances, and make it easier for people to go to work/school, and reduce commuting and travel time.

The central goal of Estonian policy on mobility is to reduce people's dependence on using a private car. Municipalities can contribute to through cycling and walking promotion activities, including the construction of bike and/or walking paths to ensure better and safe accesses to services and transport. The aim of the measure is to increase the motivation of municipalities to find solutions to traffic-hazardous road sections that impede daily mobilities (cycling or walking) to ensure better access to services, public transport (including Rail-Baltic local stops), and workplaces outside the largest urban areas (Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu). Within the Rail-Baltic project, connections will be built from the local railway stops to the closest public road only. The measure will help municipalities to connect bike and/or walking paths from the Rail Baltic local stop's closest public road to the rest of the cycling network in municipalities. So, the measure will also amplify the positive effects of environmentally friendly public transport, including fast and safe railway connection within Estonia and connecting Estonia with Central Europe, Western Europe, and neighbouring countries.

The main activity of the measure is the construction of bike and/or walking paths with the accompanying supporting infrastructure (lighting, bicycle parking spaces, benches and small forms).

PO2 measure is aimed at development of bike and/or walking paths in the largest urban areas (Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu). RRF measure has the same aim as PO3 measure, but it would start earlier. Using RRF (5 mln €) and CF PO3 (20 mln €) investments will give municipalities opportunity to build up more comprehensive cycling and pedestrian networks.

Double financing and double counting of indicators is excluded at the level of the specific objective and the project: support for the construction of the same bike and/or walking path would be granted only from one

measure and would be counted as indicators only once. The opening call for RRF's EUR 5 million is expected to take place earlier than the Cohesion Fund PO3 call for EUR 20 million.

The main target groups [1000 characters]

Residents, tourists, entrepreneurs.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. These could be adjustments in creating infrastructure according to principle 8-80. That means that infrastructure, information exchange, e-services etc must be comfortable both for 8 year old and 80 year old users. It includes details to improve the visibility and usability for all users with different needs and must be coherent to directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2000 characters]

Entire country.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2000 characters]

Not applicable

The planned use of financial instruments [1000 characters]

Not applicable

2.1.5.2.2 Indicators

Table 64: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
3	ii	CF	Transition	PSO02	Dedicated bike- and walkways infrastructure supported	km	10	76

Table 65: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
3	ii	CF	Transition	PSR02	Annual users of dedicated bike- and	users	0	2020	600000		

					walkways infrastructure supported						
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2.1.5.2.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 66: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF	Transition	ii	083	20 000 000

Table 67: Dimension 2 - form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF	Transition	ii	01	20 000 000

Table 68: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	CF	Transition	ii	32	20 000 000

Table 69: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 70: Dimension 5 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6. A MORE SOCIAL ESTONIA

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions

This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation

This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation

This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation

This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation

2.1.6.1. Specific objective (a) improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through promoting self-employment and the social economy

2.1.6.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions [8000 characters]

Different trends (automatization, digitalization, employment of new technologies, transition to climate neutrality, prolonged life expectancy, ageing population and many more) make it increasingly important to provide more, versatile, active labour market measures for all target groups, including more vulnerable groups, among which people with reduced work ability and health related issues, people with lower or outdated skills, people living in regions with high unemployment or in higher risk of unemployment due to the climate goals, among those also high proportion of non-Estonians; youth (especially in NEET situation), but also people with high, but mismatched skills in the labour market.

Interventions will address barriers and shortcomings in achieving better position at the labour market, smoother job-to-job mobility or being competitive in the labour market.

Interventions:

- Flexible and diverse labour market measures and support services are developed to promote social economy and provided addressing labour market barriers for the unemployed and inactive people and groups in high risk of unemployment.
- Concentration of women and men as well as Estonians and non-Estonians in different fields both in education and at the labour market will be reduced by promoting more versatile occupational and educational choices and thereby better harnessing the potential pool of the work force. More versatile career choices will be encouraged among women and men. Focus will also be put on removing barriers for gender, geographical, and language-based labour mobility.
- To reduce regional and socio-economic gaps, labour market measures, which are taking into account local and regional circumstances and the climate goals, are developed and provided in areas with high unemployment.

For the purpose of improving career prospects of youth with migrant background, especially from predominantly Russian-speaking areas, additional activities are developed to increase their possibilities to find suitable employment (e.g. job shadowing programme, information and motivation events). For adults with migrant background, especially those with weak labour market attachment, additional targeted support is provided combining different elements e.g. outreach, counselling, trainings, follow-up support.

- Labour market measures (incl. measures to support acquisition of work skills) are prepared and developed to support the remaining active in employment and transition into employment of individuals with health problems (incl. individuals with reduced work ability).
- Measures are developed to support participation in the labour market of older individuals through changing stereotypical attitudes among employers and employees.

- To ensure that skills of the labour force are in line with the needs of the post virus COVID-19 crisis and the recovering economy and with the labour market, upskilling and support is provided through flexible reskilling and upskilling training programs and regional measures. Through this, groups in risk of unemployment are provided with access to learning opportunities, financial support (for example degree study allowance, stipend, transport and accommodation allowance etc.) and other support services. Also system developments to improve active labour market policies are included. Interventions will be designed in cooperation with employers and stakeholders and taking into account the needs of the sectors with demand for labour and keeping in mind the objective of decreasing regional differences and segregation. Also, obstacles or barriers hindering target groups' participation (examples of obstacles include care burden, health related restrictions, language barriers and low levels of digital skills, NEET situation) will be addressed. The goal is effective and smooth transition to new jobs, alleviated labour force mismatches and reduced regional and socio-economic gaps.

The main target groups [1 000 characters]

Educational institutions, employers, personnel, recruitment, and career specialists, policy makers, pupils and students, educational personnel, employees, society as a whole, more vulnerable groups (incl. NEETs, individuals with insufficient proficiency in the official language, individuals with reduced work ability, low or outdated education, old-aged), social partners (trade unions, employers), NGOs, local municipalities, companies, state authorities, older adults, labour force that resides in areas with high unemployment (working age population, incl. risk groups, and stakeholder), companies interested in job creation in the area and affected by labour market developments, individuals with skills that do not meet the labour market needs or low-skilled individuals, organizations that provide labour market services, Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (Eesti Töötukassa), people with reduced work ability and organizations that provide them with services.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination [2 000 characters]

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools [2 000 characters]

Whole of Estonia, regions.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions [2 000 characters]

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments [1 000 characters]

n/a

2.1.6.1.2 Indicators

Table 71: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	a	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants	Nr	8901	23356

Table 72: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	a	ESF+	Transition		Participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Number or proportion	0	2020	8363		

2.1.6.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 73: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	a	134	54 930 270

Table 74: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 75: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 76: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 77: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.2. Specific objective (d) promoting adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, and active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks

2.1.6.2.1. Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions

The general objective of the interventions is to promote adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, and active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks. In order to maintain a long-term and healthy working life, an occupational health and safety service measures will be developed, considering the outcome of the revised EU Strategy on Health and Safety at Work as well. This also includes activities to build capacity of social partners, enhancement of supervision and making

the counselling service more accessible. Support is offered to increase occupational safety in the company with the help of qualified specialists and within the framework of various research and trainings. A training plan for work environment specialists, commissioners and council members will be developed, and a training program will be implemented. These include the development and promotion of e-learning opportunities and the design of sector-based and work environment risk-based training.

This intervention is linked to other interventions, which seek to reduce structural problems in the labor market, to develop a long-term care system, integrated welfare services and service delivery centers, and with the intervention, which is directed to children and young people. It also has an impact on the intervention, which is for most deprived.

Measures will be developed for the early detection and prevention of the loss of work ability and deterioration of health, supporting the development of a safe, health maintaining occupational environment and p developing services promoting healthy ways of life in the whole life span.

Developing activities for early detection and diagnosis of work-related injuries to health, incl. reforming of occupational healthcare services. In addition, measures to improve the institution's capacity to monitor the compliance of working conditions; promoting flexible ways of working, to promote innovative ways of organizing work and strengthening the capacity of authorities, incl. social partners and other representative organizations dealing with issues related to the working environment and conditions.

Mapping the need gaps in identifying and measuring physical, chemical and biological risks in living environment, developing and piloting the methodologies and necessary tools and models to fill the gaps, raising the competence and capacity of Estonia in identifying and measuring the physical, chemical and biological risks in living environment.

Developing, testing, and implementing measures to support the retention in employment of individuals subject to temporary incapacity for work and to prevent the development of permanent loss of work ability.

Analysing current fragmented services provided by different sectors (health, education, justice, labor, social) and at different levels, developing improved integrated models, piloting and implementing the measures addressing main health risks causing the loss of workability (cardiovascular diseases, mental health problems, incl substance abuse, sceleto-muscular diseases, cancer etc.), including early identification of health risks, brief intervention, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation by different institutions (incl. in occupational health and primary health care system). The analysis will include the evaluation of needs for services, current skills, interest and readiness of different stakeholders to provide the services in improved way and possible new models.

Contributing to raising awareness of the parties in the labor market and employers in meeting occupational safety requirements. Increasing the capacity of social partners and other interest groups.

Promoting of a safety culture, providing counselling or other services that consider the needs of the target group and improving monitoring.

Developing and implementing measures to improve the competitiveness of chronically ill individuals and addicts.

Reforming the system of old age pension under favourable conditions and pensions based on years worked, considering the good practice of other countries. Developing a support structure for reorganizing and improving the system; designing and providing services, which cover communication, various labor market measures, retraining and training programs.

Approximately 45% of the program support will be directed to the development of occupational health and safety services, 47% for prevention of permanent loss of work ability and 8% will be contributed to the improvement of accessibility of illness prevention measures.

The provision of services and their availability are planned at regional or local level, considering regional differences. To achieve a more appropriate result, local governments and community representatives, but all other relevant social partners will be involved in the development of appropriate measures. Greater involvement of social enterprises would be considered by measure design.

The main target groups

- Employees and employers, incl. SMEs (social enterprises), specialists and organizations that engage in working environment and working conditions related issues, incl. social partners and other employees of representative organizations, health care service providers, developers and implementers of the labor related legal framework;

- Employees and employers, partner organizations, policy makers and implementers in the labor domain;
- People responsible for health promotion, health professionals in primary health care and occupational health system;
- People with health risks, risky behaviour and their family members, local municipalities and communities, state authorities related to prevention, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, and support service providers, population, workers, health policy makers and implementers

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools

Estonia, regional level

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments

n/a

2.1.6.2.2 Indicators

Table 78: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	d	ESF+	Transition		Number of solutions developed for working conditions, occupational health and safety	Nr	6	12
4	d	ESF+	Transition		Establishment of a support system for the prevention of development of permanent incapacity for work and employment retention of people with temporary incapacity for work	N/A	1	1
4	d	ESF+	Transition		Users of the support system for the prevention of the development	Nr	0	37 700

					of permanent incapacity for work and the retention of persons with temporary incapacity for work				
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Table 79: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	d	ESF +	Transition		Share of new people with partial and absent ability to work from working age population	%	1,12	2019	1,11		
4	d	ESF +	Transition		Share of people who have lost their job due to health reasons (15 years and older)	%	12	2019	12		

2.1.6.2.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 80: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
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4	ESF+	Transition	d	144	38 050 000
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Table 81: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 82: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 83: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 84: Dimension 7 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.3. Specific objective (e) improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships

2.1.6.3.1. Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

In a rapidly changing world, study opportunities must be rich in choice, accessible, future oriented, and in line with the learner's capabilities and interests. Interventions must help harmonize study opportunities with the development needs of society and the labor market and improve the equal opportunities. The effectiveness of interventions is supported by a joint intervention logic that is applied to formal studies and different education types and is based on the following needs:

- support the implementation of a contemporary approach to teaching and learning across formal education and different levels of education, introduce a research based and contemporary approach to personalization of teaching and learning and development of the learning motivation and learning-to-learn skills throughout a learner's life;
- ensure the supply of skilled education and training workforce and support their professional development;
- establish accessible study opportunities rich in choice that enable smooth transitions within formal education and from one level of education to another;
- establish conditions for inclusive and research-based development and implementation of curricula in different levels of formal education aiming at aligning of the curricula to labour market and societal needs, promoting cohesion of curricula across levels and types of education, incl. for the purpose of taking into account in formal education of knowledge and skills acquired through nonformal and informal learning;
- ensure the labour market relevance of education and training.

- improve the awareness and attractiveness of the study fields related to green and digital shift of the economy.

Measures for curricula developing and the organization of studies and ensuring supply of education and training workforce

By way of the intervention, the process of developing and implementing learner-centered curricula is better than before connected to teacher training, evaluation, monitoring and assessment of learning outcomes as well as learning and studying materials. In different levels and types of education, measures that support prioritization of relevant curricular focus, key competencies, future skills, and important areas (e.g. foreign languages; STEAM; digital skills; entrepreneurship; career skills, sustainable development; social and interpersonal skills) are planned in cooperation with and using the competence of interest groups external to education (incl. other ministries, employers, schools). Supporting entrepreneurship and career studies and development of entrepreneurial endeavors in general education, vocational education, and higher education as well as in youth work helps raise the learners' awareness of their talents and opportunities to develop said talents and provide for a stronger connection of studies to each learner's future career.

Support is given to developing top-level skills (including digital skills) of learners with different capabilities and opportunities are expanded for learners to participate in projects and practical activities that develop talent. It is ensured that curricula will support a learner centered approach and acquisition of practical skills and that the content of studies will be in better concordance with the developmental needs of society and the labor market.

Measures aimed at education and training workforce help develop methodology and didactics related competence for the purpose of implementing a learner centred approach, incl supporting of learners with different mother tongue and learners with special educational needs SEN). Application of innovative study methods is supported, learning materials are developed and accessibility thereof is ensured as well as digital pedagogy is better integrated for better premise for differentiation and personalization of learning and teaching. The creation of innovative learning materials is supported, including for children with SEN. Compilation of learning materials takes into consideration the relevant focus of studies and the need to support the key competencies and future skills of learners of different ages and needs incl. learners with different mother tongue as well as to use diverse study environments. Use of nonformal and informal study environments (incl. e-learning environments) in formal studies is supported as ensuring better opportunities to support each learner's development and to shape their future career and choices related to lifelong learning.

Support is given to research- and evidence-based introduction of quality assessment and developmental needs monitoring as well as longer term and more extensive lines of research in educational sciences, considering the area's developmental needs. Applied research (Such as PIAAC) provide evidence-based input to teacher training and policy development and/or help respond to social and (education) policy related challenges. To ensure curricula development and achievement of national study objectives, educational institutions are ensured support in the area of the curriculum, implementation of a contemporary approach to teaching and learning, and cross-subject didactics. A monitoring system and monitoring means for implementation of contemporary curricula is set up. In assessing study outcomes, in addition to assessing learning outcomes in terms of subject-specific knowledge, opportunities are set up to provide feedback on acquisition of key competencies and skills that shape readiness for the future. Conditions are established to assess the effectiveness and quality of the activity of educational institutions, incl. to provide for learning analytics, so as to support the organization of personalized studies.

The interventions have also been designed to enhance the quality and knowledge-based development of education through activities of research education and science communication. This will popularize required fields among learners (including STEM) and align studies and training with employer needs, help to secure high-level (future) specialists for labour market and especially for RDI-intensive companies, and support the development of knowledge-based education and RDI-intensive society at large. The activities will include citizen science and RD&I-related initiatives for different age groups, different levels of education and STEM to increase the attractiveness of RD&I activities and exploitation of research outputs. The supported activities will contribute to securing high quality of (research-based) education and its relevance for the needs of the Estonian labour market

Support is given to implementation of the updated quality assessment of vocational education so as to enable use of the assessment results as an input for betterment of educational institutions' activities, development of relevant quality culture, and provide for strategic management as well as to inform interest groups about adherence of vocational education to national requirements, objectives of relevant development plans, needs of the labour market, and expectations of learners.

By way of the intervention, so as to ensure the supply of workforce in the education domain, flexible opportunities to commence employment, support for beginners, and opportunities for professional development throughout one's career are set up. Measures are developed to increase mobility both internal and external to the domain and to popularize the relevant profession. For the purpose of disseminating and implementing innovation in education and establishing a collaborative school culture, heads of educational institutions and local municipality officials are empowered.

So as to improve youth work quality, the number of youth workers with relevant professional education must be increased and best practices must be disseminated more systematically. Youth workers are provided refresher training in priority topics (e.g. smart youth work, mental health of youths, support of participation of youths with special needs, involvement of 19-26 year-old youths), a platform is established for sharing best practices and for learning from one another. In addition, youth workers are provided interview and process based job counselling as a form of efficient self-improvement and development.

Improving teaching capacity and flexibility in higher education institutions and guiding study choices in vocational and higher education

Measures to support updating of study programmes and improvement of the organisation of studies to improve the quality and flexibility of higher education, including doctoral studies. Digital learning is supported to increase the flexibility of studies and also inclusion of digital competences in different study fields. In doctoral studies, cooperation between universities is supported to raise the quality. In selected fields attention is paid to the capacity building of teaching in higher education, incl. supporting mobility of academic staff and hiring additional teaching personnel, where the quality or number of study places does not correspond to societal challenges or the labour market needs.

Measures are launched to bring vocational and higher education into better conformity with employer and labour market needs and to increase the number of graduates with required qualifications. Support is given to cooperation of professional associations or employers' umbrella organizations and educational institutions, curricular updates and improvement of the quality of studies, including doctoral studies for the purpose of popularizing required fields among learners and bringing studies into conformity with employer needs. The focus is on areas with labor market gaps, for example ICT skills, incl. updating of studies, as well as on introduction of digital competence in higher education and professional education (IT and mechatronics / industrial informatics), social- and healthcare workforce. Cooperation between different educational institutions is also supported to facilitate transitions from one level of education to another and to create synergies. Offering of scholarships in the fields of economic growth fields motivates learners to choose study programmes in those fields, supports successful completion of studies, and motivates learners to undertake research and projects in cooperation with companies and considering the interests of companies. . Specific support is provided to develop ICT skills through all education levels in formal education.

Adjusting vocational and higher education to labour market needs (PRÕM+)

By the intervention, work-based learning is expanded in priority fields and target groups (foremost youths). The quality and accessibility of the process of internship and work-based learning (incl. training of company and school instructors, cooperation between schools and companies in developing and implementing internship and work-based learning, evidence based and cooperational learning (benchlearning), development activities) are ensured. The cooperation of employers and educational institutions in developing an internship system and work-based learning is supported. Various work-based learning models are piloted, e.g. in fields that are priority in the cooperation between schools, small businesses, and professional associations. National skills competitions are carried out as well as development programs for competitors and instructors and the circle of instructors is expanded so as to ensure more successful performance in the international competition.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- Educational institution teams (educational institution teams, teachers, incl. teachers in vocational schools, lecturers, heads, support specialists), youth workers, internship instructors, universities (incl. lecturers and researchers), education officials, policy makers, institution that organizes quality assessment, assessors, companies, employers, potential teachers entering the profession, support specialists and heads, learners in higher education studying under the sector's curricula, educators in the education and youth field, learners, target groups and stakeholders in education and youth fields, general public
- Institutions and stakeholders related to science communication and research education, students in different levels of education, general public
- Higher education institutions, vocational education institutions, learners (incl. SEN students), employer organizations and professional associations,

- Learners (incl. SEN), employers, incl. SMEs, vocational educational institutions, institutions of higher education

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Interventions help to harmonize study opportunities with the development needs of society and the labor market and improve equal opportunities. The so-called learner-centered approach covers all students, especially the most vulnerable students with a different mother-tongue and lower socio-economical background. Special measures will be taken if needed in order to support specific groups (e.g. targeted measures and activities based on gender, measures targeted to vulnerable groups or regions at risk) based on concrete situation and analyses. Measures aimed at education and training workforce help to develop their methodological and didactical competence for the purpose of implementing learner-centered approach, incl. supporting of learners with SEN, learners with different mother tongue etc. Equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are addressed in the activities through setting the requirements and conditions for the participants (non-discriminative access), composition of the selection bodies/committees (e.g. gender balance in the composition of the bodies/committees), evaluation and selection procedures (non-discriminative principles and procedures for project evaluation and selection).

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Whole of Estonia

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.3.2 Indicators

Table 85: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	e	ESF +	Transition		Participants gaining qualification upon leaving.	participants	70%	2020	12560 (75% of all participants)		
4	e	ESF +	Transition		Share of students studying in priority study fields	% of all students	to be specified	to be specified	to be specified		
4	e	ESF +	Transition		Number of higher education institutions who have	number of institutions	0	NA (new activity)	13		

					completed quality development projects							
					Participants gaining qualification upon leaving (2)	participants	69%	2020	2250 (75% of all participants)			

Table 86: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	e	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants (education and youth workers) participating in trainings (minimum 32 academic hours)	participation events	3800	16 750
4	e	ESF+	Transition		Number of priority study fields supported	narrow field (according to ISCED 2013)	2	3
4	e	ESF+	Transition		Number of higher education institutions participating in quality development projects	number of institutions	13	13
4	e	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants in work-based training	participants	800	3000

2.1.6.3.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 87: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	e	145	15 690 673
4	ESF+	Transition	e	148	9 597 817
4	ESF+	Transition	e	149	57 586 899
4	ESF+	Transition	e	150	48 406 791

Table 88: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 89: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 90: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 91: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.4. Specific objective (f) promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities

2.1.6.4.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

<p>With the intervention we target following country specific recommendations for Estonia (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population is decreasing and ageing. There is increased pressure on the labour market, health care and social system due to demographic changes. <i>In a context of low birth rates and a declining working-age population, the quality of human resource is a key issue for Estonia's competitiveness and sustainability. In a situation where few generations are entering the labour market, it is necessary to ensure that they are able to participate to the maximum in social and working life.</i> • Prevention of early school leaving and supporting inclusive education for children and youth with disabilities and enhancing the equal and timely access to related services • Increasing participation in active and preventive labour market measures. <p>The activities cover a noteworthy part of the population in Estonia: as at January 1, 2019 there were 374,811 children and youths (aged 0-26) in Estonia, making up 28.3% of the entire population.</p> <p>By reference to ESF+ priorities, national developments, and challenges faced by children and youths, activities are planned in these areas:</p> <p>I Youth work measures to support enrollment into the labor market</p> <p>To reduce risk behavior and prevent the risk of exclusion in youths, improvement of regional accessibility of youth work and involvement of youths in youth work is supported. 1) Local municipalities are offered support in joint planning of youth work services, incl. support to raising municipalities' strategic planning capability and establishing implementation models as well as sharing best practices, networking, and joint offering services. 2) To plan, implement, and assess the effect of quality services that meet youth needs, functioning and further advancement of the developed youth monitoring and analysis system is supported. 3) To support youth competitiveness and improve readiness for employment, implementation of innovative programs that are aimed at youths and focus mainly on social entrepreneurship is supported.</p> <p>II Provision of support measures to NEETs</p> <p>Relying on youth work institutions, additional support is provided to youths not in employment, education, or training (NEET). The objective of the support service is to locate NEETs, motivate them, and activate them by offering them personalized support services. Additional resources are directed into mobile youth work (i.e. street work), within the framework of which first contact is established with youths and on which initial involvement of the youths in program activities depends.</p> <p>III Educational support services</p>
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Further development of educational support services system. State supports local municipalities in organizing educational support services and ensures the functions of the Pathfinder centres network. The aim of the Pathfinder network is to support the development and learning of all children and youths and to promote the principles of inclusive education. The Pathfinder network offers services to children, learners, their parents, teachers, support specialists etc. The services are based on unified standards, provision is aligned with the education and skills goals for 2035 as well as tailored to the regional and local needs.

Interventions aimed at children and young people that help to fight the early school leaving and consequently prevent social exclusion. Children and young people, that have been excluded from education and the labor market and wish to make informed choices for their future, must be supported and empowered. Measures for children and young people will be developed in cooperation with local level and stakeholders (local municipalities, PES, NGO-s etc.).

By implementing relevant interventions:

- 1) we offer young people in all regions versatile, developing, and interesting activities (incl. youth work opportunities) that support their participation in education or the labor market and prepare them better for life;
- 2) we help young people with NEET status return to school or the labor market to enable them to self-actualize themselves in the best possible way.
- 3) we tackle exclusion of children and youths as early as possible, focusing on early detection, prevention of and reaction to the risk of exclusion and early school leaving,

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- children aged 1.5 - 7; learners engaged in formal studies, students at risk of dropping out; parents; heads of educational institutions; teachers; support specialists; youth workers and other local municipality specialist and heads
- Young people aged 10-19 (including those with NEET status), children and young people studying in general education schools, children and young people at risk, parents, teachers; youths aged 10-14, all local municipalities dealing with children and youths, representatives of local institutions, representatives of companies and organizations, NGOs and communities

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Whole of Estonia

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.4.2 Indicators

Table 92: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	f	ESF+	Transition		Educational counselling service customer feedback	recommendation index (%)	75%	2019	75%	beneficiary's annual reports	
	f	ESF+	Transition		Proportion of NEETs participating in support measures who are no longer classified as NEET 6 months after leaving	% of participants	68%	(2016-2020)	65%	beneficiary's annual reports	

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	f	ESF+	Transition		Number of children and students who receive educational counselling services	counselling cases	7500	30000
4	f	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants (in youth work services)	participation events	19 600 (incl. 2100 NEET)	136 900 (incl. 10000 NEET)

2.1.6.4.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 94: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	f	136	8 846 597

4	ESF+	Transition	f	152	20 642 061
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Table 95: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 96: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 97: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 98: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.5. Specific objective: (g) promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility

2.1.6.5.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

To achieve a swift recovery from the economic and labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis support to people re- and upskilling is needed. Skills development gives great benefits in restoring the sustainable growth of economy to maintain and advance technically innovative and competitive economy and welfare. The EU's move to a resource-efficient, circular, digitised and climate neutral economy and the wide deployment of artificial intelligence and robotics also need substantial support to adults training. People need access to a broad set of skills, combining digital with job specific and transversal skills.

Although participation in adult learning is improving, in-service training and retraining of adults is currently not taking place fast enough to keep pace with labor market trends and future skills needs. Also, there are great gender and regional inequalities in participation, also older people are less interested in life long learning. Therefore developing qualitative and flexible lifelong learning opportunities is priority. However, fragmentation of the training market, lack of information about non-formal learning opportunities, lack of user-friendly ways to access the information and shortcomings with the quality evaluation system pose challenges to providing quality non-formal training. Heterogeneity of students and the need for balance between studies and work will add to the increasing need for flexible and quality studying opportunities.

Skills anticipation and monitoring system OSKA has launched successfully but further reforms and cooperation are implemented to reform the whole professional qualifications system. Skills descriptions, classifications and national databases do not match and do not provide evidence for a comparable overview of populations skills needs. The process of amending occupational standards is inflexible and does not allow for an efficient reaction to the needs of the labour market. Incentives and cooperation formats for educational institutions and employers and for modernization of content should be significantly more efficient.

Skills (self) assessment and validation opportunities of acquired skills and microqualifications (microcredentials) are still insufficient and of uneven quality, and do not support individuals in planning their studies and career.

Innovative technologies, automation, digitalisation and prolonged life expectancy make it increasingly important to provide more reskilling and upskilling opportunities and non-stationary formal education for adults. Interventions address shortcomings in developing skills and the capacity of the education and training system in providing quality non-formal training that is in line with the needs of the labour market. Training must be contemporary, of high quality and flexible. Adult education has to take into consideration the regional differences and has to address the needs of different age groups and also non-Estonian population. The planned activities have to ensure that the skills of the adult population are in line with the needs of the post-corona society, recovering economy and the labour market short-term and long-term needs. Awareness raising, outreach and popularisation activities aimed to adults are implemented to increase participation in lifelong learning, improve learning related attitudes and raise awareness of lifelong learning and the importance of self-improvement. Accessibility of information on reskilling and upskilling opportunities is improved.

Working adults whose skills need updating or are outdated are provided with contemporary, high quality flexible reskilling and upskilling non-formal trainings which take into account the skills needs forecast of OSKA system and are in line with the needs of economy and labour market and considering regional needs and the needs of groups in risk.

The main target groups for upskilling include, in particular, the working-age population and working adults without professional education, with low or outdated skills, adults who need additional specific skills to increase the added value of their work, adult trainers.

Adults with low level of education and skills are supported to continue their studies in non-stationary formal education to ensure that their skills could meet the requirements for further career and study paths.

The measures are planned with the aim to develop the ability of educational institutions in providing quality training (including development of new programs, microqualifications (microcredentials) and development of trainers' skills).

Activities are initiated to promote non-formal training quality framework. Quality assessments of providers of non-formal training are carried out. Principles, requisites and requirements applicable to micro-qualifications (micro-credentials) are developed and implemented in order to better harmonize reskilling and upskilling training with skills demand and future skills need.

To support flexible study paths, opportunities are enhanced to apply the system of validation of non-formal and informal learning (VÕTA) in the education and professional qualifications system. The study path counselling capacity is improved by providing training for adult study path counsellors and assessors. Involving social partners as well as employers by establishing and implementing inclusion practices in recognizing and validating non-formal and informal studies. Validation of non-formal and informal studies is developed, incl. development of instructive and assessment materials and other tools necessary to support lifelong learning and digital solutions for recording training history.

Professional qualifications system reform is initiated for a better inclusion of the skills requirements of the economy into qualifications. Skills classification will be updated, skills descriptions will be unified in qualification databases and the above connected to ESCO. The skills anticipation and monitoring system OSKA will be further developed to better monitor, analyse and forecast skills demand and labour supply of labour market. OSKA will also monitor the implementation of proposals made for the purpose of improving skills and labour force accessibility. Methods will include the use of additional data sources (big data and data mining). Displaying and sharing of information of OSKA results and future skills needs to different target groups will be considerably widened and improved.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

Employers, adult learners, training institutions, teachers and training instructors of adult learners, local municipalities, social partners.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. Special measures will be taken if needed in order to support specific groups (e.g. targeted measures and activities based on gender, measures targeted to vulnerable groups or regions at risk) based on concrete situation and analyses. Also equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are addressed in the actions through setting the requirements and conditions for the participants (non-discriminative access), composition of the selection bodies/committees (e.g. gender balance in the composition of the bodies/committees), evaluation and selection procedures (non-discriminative principles and procedures for project evaluation and selection).

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Estonia, regions

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.5.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	g	ESF+	Transition		Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Nr of people (nr of participations)	93%	2020	56000 (85% of all participants)		Applies only to participants in non-formal education

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
4	g	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants (in continuing education trainings)	Nr of people (nr of participations)	16500	66000
4	g	ESF+	Transition		Number of participants in formal education reintegration activities for adults	participants	1250	5000

2.1.6.5.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 101: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	g	151	81 631 006

Table 102: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 103: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 104: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 105: Dimension 7 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.6. Specific objective (h) fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups

2.1.6.6.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

Social, labor market and healthcare related, and law enforcement problems of **children and young people** are interconnected and preventable. Investing in children and young people is the most cost effective way to prevent and solve the Estonian state's significant challenges related to economics, employment, social protection, law enforcement, and healthcare. Those areas are also linked with education, its supportive services and youth work that are covered under SO (f)

In relation to **children and youth** the interventions are concentrated on enhancing the equal and timely access services supporting integrated measures for active inclusion and preventing the risk behaviour with the engagement of local communities and civil society.

By reference to ESF+ priorities, national developments, and challenges faced by children and young people, activities are planned in two areas:

1) Interventions aimed at children and young people that prevent social exclusion. It is important to offer children and youth, as well their parents quality services based on relevant target group needs needs by also improving the competencies of specialists working with them. Increasingly, topics related to mental health are more important in the target group of children and young people. Measures for children and young people will be developed and implemented in cooperation with local level and stakeholders (local municipalities, NGO-s etc.). Systematic and network-based inclusion of the young people and the empowerment of communities requires the development and deployment of civic initiative.

2) Creation of a comprehensive child protection system, including cooperation between different levels and sectors. Organization and integration of services aimed at children and young people, developing networking

and case management models and service arrangement systems to provide support to children and young people, including provision of support to local municipalities in service organization.

By implementing relevant interventions, we support the implementation of the European Child Guarantee:

- 1) we prevent causes of mental health issues and risk behaviours in youths as well as youths becoming involved in persistent offences;
- 2) we offer all youths versatile, developing, and interesting activities (incl. youth work opportunities) that support their participation in education or the labor market and prepare them better for life;
- 3) we ensure for children and youth suitable services and sufficient support for their physical and mental health, intellectual and social development;
- 4) we create a basis for the next generation of civil society leaders and participants
- 5) we develop cross-sectoral cooperation in child protection and support the renewal of the support system for children with special needs.

Activities which are related to local municipalities are jointly planned within 3 ministries. Local municipalities have support from the state level to implement activities. This includes financial support as well as advice to local government professionals, the development of methodological guidance materials and assessment tools, and training, supervision and networking.

The intervention is based on the principle that the better the adaptation and integration of permanent residents, new immigrants, and returning residents, the greater their wellbeing in Estonia and the more cohesive Estonian society is.

Successful adaptation and integration, integration in the labour market, and participation in community life of new immigrants, permanent residents of other nationalities, and returning residents in turn supports the safety/security of Estonian society and economic development: employed individuals bring tax income and advance consumption as well as participate in civil society and lifelong learning. The interventions planned reduce a burden on the social system as well as risks related to public order, security, social exclusion, ethnic conflicts, and radicalization etc.

Intervention mechanisms use services that support Estonia's (as the host society) capability to cope with cultural diversity horizontally and, on the other hand, support target groups' adaptation and integration with a stress on regional aspects. Consider the vast majority of ethnic minorities in Estonia resides in Ida-Virumaa and Harjumaa including Tallinn. This is 26% of the total Estonian population. Only 4% of ethnic minorities lives elsewhere in Estonia.

The capability of Estonian society to cope with diversity and to foster active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability for immigrants, returning residents, and permanent residents of other nationalities is supported by the following integrated measures with the engagement of local communities and civil society:

1. Strategic communication related to migration, adaptation/civic orientation, and integration to understand the migration processes and shape an objective opinion. Without strategic communication, conflicts may emerge between nationalities and communities. Conflicts are also fostered by contacts between diverging values, attitudes, and identities in context of distrust and scant resources as well as by sensing unfairness and danger and by spreading of incorrect facts. It is important to find by way of an open debate in society a consensual balance point in issues related to migration, adaptation/civic orientation, and integration. Otherwise, social cohesion is weakened and threats public order and security emerge from nationality and community related conflicts. In addition, biased information and perceptions hinder successful employment and labour market integration of target groups. The clearer and more coordinated the organization and fact related base of migration, adaptation/civic orientation, and integration related communication in Estonia, the more efficiently can be organized and carried out relevant migration, adaptation/civic orientation, and integration policies. Clearly managed expectations and direction of such expectations fosters emergence of social cohesion. Within the framework of communication, different opinions and attitudes are reconciled to find balance points based on democratic values.
2. Development of the regional capability among local municipalities, public and private sector organizations, incl. culture and sports related institutions, and NGOs in the domain of integration and adaptation/civic orientation. Services aimed at immigrants, incl. strategic development thereof, has thus far predominantly been the responsibility of the central government. Local municipalities provide, within their competencies, local services to immigrants; however, they lack a strategic understanding of their role, function, solutions, and expectations in supporting adaptation/civic orientation and longer-term integration of new

immigrants. At the same time, the number of municipalities with new immigrants and returning residents within Estonia tends to expand, which means that new destinations, such as Pärnu, will emerge alongside larger centres. Under this measure regional municipalities such as Narva and Ida-Virumaa (northeast), Tartu and Tartumaa (southeast), Tallinn and Pärnu (south-west) receive targeted support to develop local level integration strategies and targeted measures with integration pathways. By supporting local municipalities, public and private sector organizations, and NGOs, we help them independently provide to immigrants additional adaptation/civic orientation and integration services on a wider scale and assist immigrants in being involved in civil society. Culture and sports related institutions and NGOs are empowered in providing services to residents whose first language is not Estonian.

3. Language learning possibilities should be provided not only in the formal education system by considering the relevant target group needs but also in non-formal training and through other innovative language learning methods that support developing communication skills for everyday life.

For the purpose of developing and practicing work related Estonian and improving readiness to work in an Estonian-speaking environment, it is effective to provide language learning opportunities and language support by way of labour market measures, enabling youths and adults whose first language is other than Estonian to participate in job related exchange programs and job shadowing and to utilize mentor support in an Estonian-speaking work environments. Language learning opportunities are also provided to imprisoned persons in order to promote their integration. In addition to language learning, a language environment that supports language practice through intercommunity contact at different cultural and sporting events, language cafes and culture clubs must be established. Next to language learning, learning opportunities related to civics and citizenship as well as national defence are provided to raise relevant awareness.

Within the framework of early childhood education, the methodology of early language learning must be developed in kindergartens and a seamless continuation of professional teaching methods in teaching Estonian in basic education must be ensured. Early language learning is essential in order to ensure sufficient language skills for higher/further education and success in the labour market. In VET and in upper-secondary education, compensation measures to improve the learners' language skills should be developed and implemented. Shortages of Estonian language teachers and trainers as well as the lack of high quality learning and teaching materials should be addressed, collaboration between educational and research institutions (universities) should be promoted with the purpose of improving the methodological quality of language teaching.

4. Implementation of an adaptation/civic orientation program. The adaptation/civic orientation program supports emergence of social cohesion and reduces risks in terms of non-adaptation and non-integration in Estonian society of new immigrants and returning residents. It also helps to increase migrants active participation in labour market, provides necessary information and tools to access education, especially children who have born abroad and adults who have school aged children. The program gives new immigrants basic knowledge in topics related to functioning of the Estonian state and society, organization of daily life, work and entrepreneurship, studying, science, and family life. The program enables foreigners that have recently settled in Estonia and returning residents to cope independently, find required information, and successfully participate in the labour market, lifelong learning, and society, including civil society, at large. The adaptation/civic orientation program set up a favourable premise for further integration of foreigners, helps foreigners contribute to society more quickly, and reduces risks of intercommunity conflict as well as other risks. New immigrants (incl. short-term workers and their family members) are among other things provided with work related information and counselling in relation to Estonian labour market, incl. issues related to rights and obligations, for the purpose of ensuring for new immigrants high employment and active participation in Estonian labour market. It is important to ensure the systematic provision of the adaptation/civic orientation program by municipalities to ensure the involvement of local authorities in the provision of the service as well as the consistent use of feedback in the design of other services.

The coherent intervention logic that will foster active inclusion and participation, to improve the employability and guarantees equal opportunities for immigrants, returning residents, and permanent residents of other nationalities will also complement several other interventions planned and contribute to other SO-s addressed under ESF+, such as alleviating the problems in the labour market, promoting socio-economic integration, enhancing the equal and timely access to labour market and social services, promoting the inclusion of inactive people and reducing the risk of poverty or social exclusion. Therefore, larger target groups will be benefitting from the remarkable synergy created by the strong linkages with other interventions and SO-s.

The healthy synergy between ESF and AMIF also will be guaranteed. Measures implemented under the ESF+ are aimed at promoting socio-economic integration of new immigrants, permanent and returning residents. The focus of AMIF would be on early intervention measures and the primary and rapid response in supporting the adaptation and integration in the principle of one-stop-shops right after the arrival of third country nationals to Estonia, e.g. support person service, information and participation activities, counselling (migration advisory

service etc.), pre-departure measures etc. Special attention goes to the persons granted international protection. The compiling process of the AMIF programme has started; therefore, it is possible to avoid double financing and to ensure complementarity.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- Parents, children and young people with serious traumatic experience; children in alternative care, alternative care service providers; young people entering life from foster care; parties engaged in assessing the situation of children, specialists working with children, local municipalities; specialists working with children and young people and their representative organizations, universities, relevant professional association; young people incl. those with NEET status
- Suspects and accused persons, probationers, imprisoned persons of up to 29 years of age involved in the criminal justice system. Specialists handling children and young people involved in the criminal justice system
- Children and young people at risk, parents, all local municipalities dealing with children and young people representatives of local institutions, representatives of companies and organizations, NGOs and communities

Children and young people arriving from EU states and third countries, incl. children and youth of families temporary staying in Estonia; in formal education permanent residents whose first language is other than Estonian; local municipalities (owners of ECEC and schools), officials and staff; teachers and other members of education institutions teams in ECEC; VET, general secondary education, researchers and teacher trainers; adult learners and teachers of Estonian language as a second language, teacher trainers; researchers, universities' and higher education institutions' staff; imprisoned persons; individuals whose first language is other than Estonian; employers; new immigrants, incl. third country nationals, EU citizens and their family members; local population; public, private, and third sector institutions that come into contact with new immigrants; individuals of other nationalities and ethnic groups residing in Estonia.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. In the field of children and youth, the planned interventions include both universal and targeted activities. The activities are aimed at different target groups taking into account their specifics.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

By reference to relevant intervention logic, measures are aimed at 1) the whole of Estonia (improvement of diversity related societal capability). 2) Considering the geographical distribution of immigrants and permanent residents of other nationalities (nearly 30% of the general population in Estonia), special attention is paid to Ida-Viru County and Harju County, incl. Tallinn, where most of the representatives of the target group reside (8.8% and 17% of the general population, respectively). Measures are also aimed elsewhere where representatives of the target group constitute a significant part of the population in the local municipality (Tartu, Pärnu, Valga etc).

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.6.2. Indicators

Table 106: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	h	ESF +	Transition		Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	participants	70%	2020	7500 (75% of all participants)		trainings related to language learning and/or integration
4	h	ESF +	Transition		Percentage of beneficiaries of the measure who have completed the planned activities for the target group	% (percentage)	74	2020	80		
4	h	ESF +	Transition		A cross-cutting child protection model is developed	0	2020	1	4		
4	h	ESF +	Transition		Measures for children and youth in risk are developed	0	2020	5	4		

Table 107: Output indicators									
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)	
4	h	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants (in language and integration-related training (minimum 32	participation events	2500	10000	

					academic hours))			
4	h	ESF+	Transition		Number of electronic language learning services to be created	services	1	4
4	h	ESF+	Transition		A cross-cutting child protection model is implemented	model	0	1
4	h	ESF+	Transition		Measures for children and youth in risk are implemented	Nr of measures	2	5
4	h	ESF+	Transition		Total number of participants	participants)	1500	6000

2.1.6.6.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 108: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	h	152	102 420 255
4	ESF+	Transition	h	154	8 428 729
4	ESF+	Transition	h	158	2 195 788

Table 109: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 110: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 111: Dimension 6 - ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 112: Dimension 7 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.7. Specific objective (k) enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility

including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services

2.1.6.7.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

The intervention includes development of activities that support independent living and empower local communities, coordination and integration of different policy fields in order to facilitate the accessibility of high-quality social services and increasing social workers and other workforce competence and skills. The aim of the intervention is to develop a comprehensive long-term care (LTC) system which prevents, reduces and helps to cope with the care needs, promotes people's independent living and coping and supports caregivers.

The cornerstones of such system are:

- 1) good overall coordination,
- 2) well-designed modern working methodology and knowledgebase
- 3) well-functioning and regionally accessible social services,
- 4) professional social workers and other workforce in LTC,
- 5) supported by investments into the contemporary social services infrastructure (please see chapter on investments into infrastructure).

Good overall coordination and well designed modern working methodology and knowledgebase

- An important component of LTC is the establishment of a comprehensive evaluation system, which includes necessary data warehouses, data exchange systems and instruments. Currently, there is lack of intra-sectoral cooperation, coordination between the national and local levels, social and health sectors, and a shortage of innovation.
- In order to establish a functioning system, it is necessary to increase the capacity of policy makers both at national and local level and service providers, as well as cooperation between actors in field.
- One of the aims of the actions supported is to empower communities, clients and their umbrella organizations. For this, it is necessary to raise their awareness and support actions which will increase the use of innovative digital and technological solutions. Involvement of public sector but also private and non-profit sector and as educational research institutions is of crucial importance for success..
- Support for the use of innovative solutions includes enabling a wider use of different assistive technologies both at home environment and in the provision of different services. Also, activities that promote the quality, availability and effective monitoring must be supported.

Well functioning and regionally accessible social services

- Estonian social policy aims at establishing conditions and supporting life in dignity, independent coping, living at home and participation in the society of people with mental special needs and elderly as long as possible. Estonia has established new services (for example interval services), is piloting person-oriented service models in local governments and established sheltered work service. The precondition for independent living is the existence of high-quality social infrastructure and availability of social services that help to prevent institutionalisation.
- To increase the uptake of innovative solutions, it is necessary to support local initiatives. It contributes to improving the accessibility and quality of services; integration and coordination of services; person-centred service provision; supporting people's daily coping and well-being in their homes; new support measures for elderly, who do not have abilities to cope alone, but need less assistance than provided in care homes, new measures for new target groups (for example addicts with mental disorders, people with autism etc), enabling flexible working conditions for the elderly and people with special needs and people with care burden; supporting healthy and active aging; more effective resolution of complex problems; mobilizing additional resources to address social issues.
- One of the goals is to support the development and provision of services for people with dementia.
- Projects related to the community-led local development will be supported to maximize community involvement and to help communities meet the region's challenges and promote innovative solutions.

- **Professional social workers and other workforce in LTC** Changes in services also lead to the need for new skills. In order to meet the demand for skilled labour force in the social protection sector, there is a need to bring in additional specialists to the sector and raise the skills of those already working there. LTC services and assistance are currently provided in more than 80,000 service places, while the actual need is for at least 132,000 places. This means that the relevant demand for labour force is even greater than estimated in 2016 in the OSKA report.
- It is necessary to develop the study programmes. This includes basic formal education, in-service training, work-based learning, etc. Establishing qualification requirements for people working in the field and raising the competencies of people already working there (trainings, developing study materials, etc.). Special attention will be paid to professionals working with children. Supported activities include basic training and in-service training of specialists.
- There is a need to popularize occupations in the social welfare sector and to support entry into the sector. The problem is that large proportion of people study in social field, do not continue working there after graduation. According to the survey which analysed the success rate of people who graduated vocational and higher education level in the field of health and social welfare, only 54% and 58% of them worked in the sector afterwards. Social and behavioural sciences give students universal skills that can be applied in different sectors, so it cannot be expected that even if their employment rate is high, that they will go directly to work with people who need services. Popularisation of social welfare has to be done in cooperation with universities and employers and there should be other support measures like supervision, counselling and other workplace-based measures.
- Activities related to the improvement of qualification of the social workforce, which do not fit into the intervention “Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships”, will be covered under this intervention. It must be taken into account that the qualifications base of the social workforce starts with curricula and training that meet the needs of the labour market, ie high-quality in-service and advanced training. Social field can contribute, in particular, to finding providers of special training and, if necessary, to obtaining training in topics that are specific to a narrow target groups or in nature, and which are not practical to develop, for example, within the framework of higher education.

Changes in services also lead to the need for new skills. There is lack of intra-sectoral cooperation, coordination between the national and local levels, social and health sectors, and a lack of innovation. There are not enough skills to develop and provide modern and people-centered services, including lack of digital competences. As a result, the sector, including local governments, is unable to provide people with quality services, and as a result, the pressure on social protection costs is constantly increasing. It is necessary to develop the study programmes. This includes basic formal education, in-service training, work-based learning, etc. Establishing qualification requirements for people working in the field and raising the competencies of people already working there (trainings, developing study materials, etc.). Special attention will be paid to professionals working with children. Supported activities include basic training and in-service training of specialists.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- People with special needs
- People with care need
- People with dementia and their family members
- People with care burden or with a potential to develop a care burden
- Local governments (LG) and communities
- Social Insurance Board
- Social-, employment- and healthcare policy makers
- Social-, employment- and healthcare workers and service providers
- Social-, education-, employment- and healthcare sector
- (Technology) companies
- Parties of the guardianship system
- Private and non-profit organizations

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Estonia.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.7.2. Indicators

Table 113: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
4	k	ESF +	Transition			Number of people					
4	k	ESF +	Transition		Number of participants whose coping has improved or maintained	Number	0	2020	8500		
4	k	ESF +	Transition		Number of participants whose situation related to the burden of care has improved	Number	0	2020	3600		
4	k	ESF +	Transition			%					
4	k	ESF +	Transition			%					

Table 114: Output indicators									
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)	

4	k	ESF+	Transition			Nr		
4	k	ESF+	Transition			N/A		
4	k	ESF+	Transition			Nr		
4	k	ESF+	Transition		Recipients of social welfare services	Number of people	900	11100

2.1.6.7.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 115: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ESF+	Transition	K	161	48 160 000

Table 116: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 117: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 118: Dimension 4 - ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 119: Dimension 5 - ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.8. Specific objective (ii) improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

2.1.6.8.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

Intervention logic is in line with and complementary to the interventions planned under the Specific Objective on improving the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems and help to tackle such challenges as supply of the education and training workforce and insufficient responsiveness of education and training to the changing skills needs. In order to ensure quality education and a resource-efficient network and infrastructure of educational institutions, it is necessary to take into account demographic changes in regions as well as to review the content of education and the responsibilities and roles in the education system.

It is planned to develop and implement the concept of regional education centers, which on the one hand favors co-operation in general, vocational and higher education and on the other hand between education and the

world of work. Changes due to population decline and aging have the greatest impact on Ida-Virumaa, South-Eastern and Central Estonia and regions further away from the centers. In areas with a below average socio-economic situation, declining population and with large share of permanent residents of other nationalities it is necessary to find special solutions that take into account the cultural environment and development background of the area. There will be the following main strands shaping the investment possibilities:

1) Investments supporting the collaboration between educational institutions, including VET schools, general education schools, non-formal learning providers as well as higher education (for example, including regional colleges of the universities). The projects will be selected based on the partnerships-based concept of educational consortia and in full alignment with regional and local circumstances. Projects should help to deliver high quality upper secondary education programs in collaboration between at least VET and general education institutions, where appropriate including also higher education and non-formal learning providers as well as basic schools (when necessary to facilitate the transitions from secondary education to upper secondary level). Small scale investments will be targeted at creating modern quality learning and teaching environments, including infrastructure for digital learning, as well as reconstruction and modernization of already existing infrastructure necessary to deliver a high quality upper secondary education programs in collaboration between several education institutions. Intervention helps to reduce the gaps in the educational attainment and regional disparities. Priority will be given to projects in regions with large share of permanent residents of other nationalities and higher risks of early school leaving of youth, and to projects that would have a positive impact on promoting innovation as well as cooperation between schools and companies to improve the quality of work-based learning and apprenticeship type of training.

2) Investments into reorganisation of the basic school network, allowing for reconstruction of education infrastructure aiming at reorganizing and optimizing the basic education provision and proactively mitigating the impact of demographic changes in regions with below average socio-economic situation, with most declining and aging population focusing on quality and accessibility of education for all students. To be granted support, projects must be sustainable in the long term (according to prognosis for learner places until 2035), must contribute to quality criteria in education, including impact assessment of project outcomes on education workforce working conditions and quality of learning and teaching environments, and support the cross-use of educational resources and facilities for formal education, non-formal and informal learning for youth and adults to cooperate with educational centers, especially in the lower secondary school level. As a result of the projects, prescribed resource efficiency criteria should be achieved considering the regions' educational institutions network as a whole as well as other facilities used for provision of non-formal and informal learning for young people and adult learners in the community. All buildings and facilities constructed or reconstructed under this strand should be compliant with the accessibility, energy efficiency and other horizontal criteria.

3) Investments that enable enhancement of and support to inclusion of individuals with special needs in general schools, VET schools as well as youth work institutions. Investments in the study environment are supported so as to facilitate implementation of the principles of inclusive education in education and in youth work

4. Implementation of abovementioned interventions will be supported by measures to promote quality assessment and quality and innovation management of education. The development and introduction of a complex service that is focused on management of the school network and schools and is based on an evidence-based school / school network quality management methodology suitable in different circumstances across the school network will be supported. This is a knowledge-based way to provide a toolbox for the local municipalities to monitor and plan the input, processes and impact of the activities to modernize the school network and improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- Students, teachers, local municipalities, state;
- Local municipalities, school heads, educational institutions (school managers, teachers).

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

While making investments into development of the basic school network the focus is on regions with declining and aging population, with large share of population with migrant background and with lower socio-economic background. This approach safeguards inclusion and guarantees equal access to good quality education.

Urban regions of Tallinn and Tartu are excluded from basic school network support activities

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.8.2 Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
6	ii	ERDF	Transition		Area of modernised facilities	square metres	3000	25000

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
6	ii	ERDF	Transition		Square metres per pupil in schools that received support in the process of rearrangement of the education network	square metres per pupil	8,3 (by end of 2020)	2020	<=11,5		

2.1.6.8.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 122: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	ERF	Transition	ii	122	72 000 000

Table 123: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
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Table 124: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 125: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 126: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.6.9. Specific objective (iii) promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services

2.1.6.9.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

Main challenges from the social sector perspective of the LTC concern the availability, adequacy and quality of LTC services, expanding the choice of service providers, improving the qualification and motivation of workforce, and improving the financial sustainability of LTC. There is a clear need to increase the public funding of LTC, implement more cost effective approach and support local governments to increase the provision of home based LTC services. Considering future needs and expenditure demands, Estonia needs to explore new financing models for LTC.

Based on the work of LTC task force in 2016-2017 and initial reform proposals, adopted in 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the LTC care management and financing model in January 2020. The model, prepared together with social partners, stakeholders and experts, will be state and local governments' co-operation model. The organisation of LTC care services shall be done in state-local government partnership. The state shall take more responsibility to develop and provide those LTC services, which are not reasonable to develop and provide on local level. State and local governments' contribution shall be increased in order to improve the accessibility and quality of long-term care services.

The intervention aims to support activities which help to implement the long-term care (LTC) reform and support the integration of the health and social sectors through investments in infrastructure based on the principle of deinstitutionalization (DI) and fully supporting people's independent living and coping.

Transition from institutional based care to cooperation, coordination, and integration between the health and social care sectors in an integrated way is necessary to ensure the sustainability of social protection and health care systems and to provide comprehensive assistance to people. The intervention has two main action lines, which in the end form an integrated package.

The first action line is oriented to the social welfare sector. Main activities are related to investments which enable to provide additional community based services for people, who cannot cope alone at home, but need less assistance than provided in general care homes. This need includes redevelopment of existing infrastructure for creating infrastructure for new intermediate service type between home care and general care and adaption of homes to enable independent living and prevent institutionalisation, development of home care based services and establishment of community based special care services. In the reorganisation of special care services, the principle of close to home shall be applied. While developing services and infrastructure, the priority is to retain contact with family of origin and enable people to get support from their families and move from more light services when person is ready for less assistance and more

independence. Taking into account the increasing number of people with dementia, investments in their supporting infrastructure, including general care homes, are needed.

Support will be given to activities aimed at encouraging the private and non-profit sector to invest in the social welfare domain; increased use of technology and innovative solutions in the social protection sectors will be encouraged both for the purpose of improving access to local governments, state services, and educational and research institutions and involving the private sector. The aid system is expanded by supporting obtainment of assistive technologies in homes.

The second action line is oriented on the healthcare sector and the aim is to create integrated health and welfare centers. All the investments support promoting living at home or within the community as well as support activities that improve coping, while improving people's quality of life and hindering increase in the cost of care.

For the provision of integrated health and welfare services (basic health and general hospitals, specialized care and community services; social welfare services provided close to home), establishment of a sufficiently functional infrastructure or adjustment of existing infrastructures in smaller counties into integrated welfare centers is commenced. Establishment of the first integrated welfare centre is underway in Viljandi County, however, establishment of such county centers is reasonable also in other counties. In 2015, Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF) commissioned a study from the World Bank, which resulted in a project on the integration of health and social services in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Viljandi Hospital. As a result of the project, a regional cooperation model was created between the hospital, primary care and social sector, which can be applied elsewhere in Estonia. As a result of the project and also from the cofunding from European Regional Development Fund, Viljandi will be the first in Estonia to build a new county welfare center that meets modern needs and is economically viable, contrary to the current situation in other counties where the hospital building in use is are too large, their planning is inadequate and their fixed and operational costs are overwhelming. The goal is to reach to the same result also in other counties and to provide people with timely and effective services.

All the investments in health care will be based on the person-centered integrated hospital master plan which is developed with the support of Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP). A comprehensive mapping of the current hospital system is prepared which will show the supply of healthcare in different specialties, the distribution of physical and human resources, the financial flows, and the mechanisms of governance and information sharing. Based on this a sound analytical prediction model is developed, which will provide evidence-based estimates of the population needs and the supply of health workforce and healthcare services and infrastructures. The master plan will enable to make investment decisions to establish a sustainable hospital network that is integrated with outpatient specialist care, primary healthcare and social services.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

- Individuals in need of care, incl. the elderly, people with cognitive disorders, individuals with difficulties in social coping
- Local municipalities, communities, non-profit associations, private sector, healthcare and social sector service providers, incl. specific labor force), family members of individuals in need of care, i.e. potential individuals subjected to the burden of care
- Healthcare and social domain (service providers, incl. specific labor force)

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Estonia, regional level

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

n/a

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.6.9.2 Indicators

Table 127: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
6	iii	ERDF	Transition		Number of modernised hospitals	number	0	2
6	iii	ERDF	Transition		Number of dwellings and services places created or adapted	number	0	4695

Table 128: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
6	iii	ERDF	Transition		Annual users of new or modernised social care dwelling and service places	users/year	0	2020	3756		

2.1.6.9.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 129: Dimension 1 - intervention field

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	ERDF	Transition	iii	127	95 600 000

Table 130: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 131: Dimension 3 - territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 132: Dimension 6 - ESF+ secondary themes

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 133: Dimension 7 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.7. ADDRESSING MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (m) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (l) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to urban mobility specific objective set out in point (viii) of Article 3(1)(b) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to ICT connectivity specific objective set out in point (v) of Article 3(1)(a) of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation

2.1.7.1. Specific objective (m) addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion

2.1.7.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Types of support *Text field [2 000]*

The funding is used to provide food and basic material assistance, food donations and accompanying measures to the target group. Despite improvements, poverty, social exclusion and income inequality are high in Estonia. In 2018, 21.7% of Estonian population lived at risk of poverty and 2.4% in absolute poverty. Compared to 2017, the share of people at risk of poverty decreased by 0.2 percentage points and the share of those living in absolute poverty decreased by 0.3 percentage points.

The at-the-risk-of-poverty decreased for single person households, i.e. people living alone, as well as among single parents. By age groups, the gap is smallest among older persons (aged 65 and older), although in the last decade, it has widened slightly each year. By age groups, the gap is smallest among older persons (aged 65 and older), although in the last decade, it has widened slightly each year.

Social transfers, i.e. state benefits and pensions, helped to prevent falling into poverty. Without including these in income, 39.1% of the population would have been at risk of poverty and 22.7% in absolute poverty.

The risk of poverty rate remained at the level of 20.9% among young people aged 16–24. Among children under 18, the at-risk-of-poverty rate increased by 1,9 percentage points to 17.1% in 2018. At the same time, the absolute poverty rate of children fell from 2.5% in 2017 to 1.6% in 2018. There has been a decrease in the share of older people living at risk of poverty – the rate among persons aged 65 and older fell from 46.4% in 2017 to 43.1% in 2018.

In 2019, 7.6% of the population in Estonia lived in deprivation. The deprivation rate was the highest among the elderly (at least 65 years old) (10.4%) and the lowest in the 18–24 year-old age group (5.3%).

Main target groups *Text field [2 000]*

People at the absolute poverty, homeless, people at the risk of poverty.

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support *Text field [2 000]*

The general objective of the intervention is to enhance social inclusion and contribute to the objective of eradicating poverty, including child poverty, in Estonia. More specifically, the most deprived persons are provided food and basic material assistance and social inclusion activities. Providing food enables to establish better contact with the person in need and thereby to involve her in other services and/or support, incl. for example, referring to active labor market services, social welfare services, access to education and training that in the long run could contribute to improving the individual's socio-economic situation and reduce the need for assistance.

The following activities are planned to achieve this goal: 1) Making food and basic material assistance available to the target group and 2) collecting and distributing food donations, which also reduces food waste. Activity referred to in the first point involves either the purchase of food and/or basic material assistance centrally and distribution at the local level or providing the target group vouchers allowing them to purchase/receive the basic food aid and material assistance directly.

Activities will be carried out in cooperation with partners such as NGOs, food stores and wholesalers, local governments etc. Mutual learning, networking and promoting social responsibility in the food sector will contribute to the effectiveness of the intervention.

Both activities will be complemented by some accompanying measure aimed at alleviating the social exclusion of the most deprived persons. These measures include for example advice and information on nutrition and cooking recipes; on available social services or other types of public and private assistance, on ALM measures, some basic counselling activities and workshops, e.g. on managing a household budget, cooking classes, etc. Some of these are provided directly from other ESF+ interventions aimed at increasing social inclusion and reducing inequalities. The poorest children will be directed to supplementary services as free early childhood education and care, free education, free health care.

Criteria for the selection of operations *Text field [4 000]*

In designing the implementation, the starting point is to reach the widest possible target group while paying attention to the nutritional value and quality of the food and the dignity of the beneficiaries.

2.1.7.1.2 Indicators *[lisatakse avaliku konsultatsiooni ajaks]*

Table 134: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit

Table 135: Result indicators [lisatakse avaliku konsultatsiooni ajaks]

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Reference value	Reference year	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]

2.1.8. ESTONIA CLOSER TO PEOPLE

2.1.8.1. Specific objective: (i) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development and cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas

2.1.8.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

Support is given in the form of grants. Functional urban areas are expected to focus their selected actions on a limited number of challenges that need complex and integrated actions to achieve expected results. The operations are selected in the process of drawing up an urban action plan. In the selection of projects, the representatives of municipalities and other key stakeholders of functional urban areas are involved. All projects must be in accordance with territorial strategies. To support the selection projects and drawing up the action plan for urban area detailed guidelines and networking are foreseen and financing for necessary analyses is made available to all relevant actors. To strengthen the capacity of local authorities to generate projects, consultancy and training will be coordinated centrally (see chapter 2.5.2).

Measures under PO2 and PO5 targeted at functional urban areas are planned in an integrated manner, combining interventions solving specific challenges for each functional urban area with interventions targeted at environmental and sustainable mobility bottlenecks in larger urban areas. Synergy with other POs and SOs is achieved by implementing the territorial strategies. Interventions related to *promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility* are planned under PO2. Specific objective for urban areas under PO5 focuses on other challenges and development opportunities identified in the process of updating territorial strategies focusing on innovative solutions.

Smart solutions (including green solutions)

Until now, major Estonian functional urban areas have not utilized enough digital and other smart solutions for provision of services, altering the transport arrangements or making urban space more attractive. Due to the presence of innovative businesses and R&D institutions, cities represent a good environment for testing and implementing innovative solutions. Testing of such solutions would allow solving urgent developmental issues of the cities while supporting their international competitiveness. Support is granted to development, testing and implementation of smart services and solutions provided in the cities (i.e. new e-services, usability of big and open data, e-democracy / inclusion solutions, intelligent systems (incl. for monitoring) and smart grids (traffic, lighting, etc.)). These interventions are also perfected by PO1 intervention logics where companies are supported in RDI investments, innovation is supported and interactions between R&D institutions, universities and companies. The purpose of green solutions projects is to increase biodiversity in urban space, making the urban environment more resilient against climate changes and liveable for people. Activities include the use of biodiversity-enhancing elements and design techniques in urban planning, the creation of species-rich areas, the construction of natural waterways, etc.

Urban revitalization of Ida-Viru urban area

For Ida-Viru urban area special focus on underused urban areas is needed. As stated in the mid-term evaluation report interventions taken by sustainable urban measures are clearly insufficient to renew deprived and underused urban areas in Ida-Viru county. In case of Ida-Viru county, it is important to continue supporting the development of urban environment by investing in utilization of urban space and renovation of public infrastructure (including cycling infrastructure) in order to make living environment of the urban areas more

attractive to qualified labour force and adapt to depopulation. Additional attention must be paid to problems related emptying residential properties that bring along the necessity to develop the city more compact.

The impact for citizens and businesses is mainly related to the improvements in urban space, making urban areas more attractive and comfortable for living or economic activity.

In the implementation of investments in urban infrastructure or smart solution developments supported the principles of accessibility and universal design are taken into the consideration.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

Local governments, public transport centres, enterprises, NGOs, R&D institutions.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. In the implementation of investments in urban infrastructure or smart solution developments supported, the principles of accessibility and universal design should be taken into the consideration.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Integrated implementation of both PO2 (SO (viii) promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility) and PO5 (SO (i) measures contributes at least 8% ERDF resources to sustainable urban development.

Specific objective is implemented in the form of "other territorial tool" and is based on workforce catchment area level strategies, which describe multi-sectoral development challenges and needs of the specific functional region, including the functional urban area within. Strategies are developed in coordination with different local authorities and bodies using bottom-up approach. The strategies describe the main development challenges (incl. economic, climate-related, mobility, demographic and social issues) of the urban centres and their role in the development of the functional urban area and the territorially wider workforce catchment area. Such approach has the benefits of mitigating the negative consequences of urbanization and increasing the positive effects of urban development for the entire workforce catchment area. Therefore, considering urban-rural linkages is vital when planning for the interventions at the territorial strategy level.

Functional urban area (target area of this SO) covers both the urban centre as well as the surrounding high-density area with very close ties to its urban centre. The surrounding high-density areas are defined as continuous settlement areas surrounding urban centres with high commuting intensity. Support is targeted to functional urban areas with population exceeding 50 000 – larger functional urban areas of Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu and functional urban areas of Ida-Viru county. These are areas where sustainable mobility and environmental issues (i.e. air quality, green public spaces) are most acute and require more attention than smaller towns (all other towns in Estonia have less than 18 000 inhabitants). The specific geographical target area may vary depending on the interventions and territorial strategies.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

Possible links between different urban interventions could be identified in development strategies, presence and extent of interregional and transnational actions depends on development strategies of urban areas and the activities chosen. Potentially all interventions could complement actions of interregional (INTERREG, URBACT) programmes, as selected development challenges are important on both national and cross-border level.

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.8.1.2 Indicators

Table 136: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO new	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	m2	0	80 000
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO36	Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaption to climate change	ha	10	40
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO76	Integrated projects for territorial development	Nr of projects	2	18
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO75	Strategies for integrated territorial development supported	Strategies	4	4
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCO74	Population covered by projects in the framework of strategies for integrated territorial development	Nr of population	855 076	855 076

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [2000]	Comments [2000]
8	i	ERDF	Transition	PSR02	Population benefitting from open space developed in urban areas	Nr of people	0	2021	232 000		
8	i	ERDF	Transition	RCR11	Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes	Nr of people	0	2021	128 000		

2.1.8.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	ERDF	Transition	i	131	21 516 000
8	ERDF	Transition	i	075	2 000 000
8	ERDF	Transition	i	050	4 000 000

8	ERDF	Transition	i	012	8 000 000
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Table 139: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	ERDF	Transition	i	01	35 516 000

Table 140: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	ERDF	Transition	i	33	35 516 000

Table 141: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 142: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.8.2. Specific objective

(ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development and cultural heritage, tourism and security in areas other than urban areas.

2.1.8.2.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

Support is given in the form of grants. The projects are selected in open calls where different local authorities are involved in the projects selection process. Projects must be in accordance with territorial strategies. Beneficiaries are expected to focus their selected actions on a limited number of challenges that need complex and integrated actions to achieve expected results.

A positive example of using territorial and integrated approach in 2014-2020 period are the regional initiatives to promote employment and entrepreneurial activity. For the purpose of that initiative, all relevant local and regional organisations were brought together and a long-term coordinated plan for the enhancement of employment and entrepreneurial activity in each region was developed. Territorial approach was also used for infrastructure investments where projects were selected in regions involving local and regional organisations, however the co-ordination and integration between individual investments was lacking. A lesson learned from previous period is that it is important to motivate integrated solutions that are developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and other municipalities of the region. To support the project preparation quality, necessary analyses are supported. To strengthen the capacity of local authorities to generate and execute projects and to involve all relevant actors, consultancy and training will be coordinated centrally as part of this SO.

As the population in many regions of Estonia is declining and ageing and in other regions is growing, modern and target-oriented service management capacities should be developed in local governments, incl. the ability to develop smart service and digital solutions. Low development capacity at local level hampers successful implementation of support measures, reforms and policies. Territorial administrative reform has created the

prerequisites for a leap in the development of the local government level, but without capacity building, local governments will continue the old path and change in development pace will not take place.

While in 2010 69.9% of the country's GDP was produced in Harju County and Tartu County, in 2017 it was already 74.4%, which is at the same time 0.2% less than a year earlier. Of the regions, GDP per capita exceeds the national average only in Harju County (143%), while in some counties it is below 50% of the national average. Although entrepreneurial activity has been steadily increasing in all counties since the economic crisis, it has been faster in the urban areas of Tallinn and Tartu with the highest economic activity and slower in the areas with the lowest entrepreneurial activity. There are also remarkable regional differences in access to capital and qualified workers. Besides Hiiumaa the slowest growth and lowest level of entrepreneurial activity is still in Ida-Viru County.

Several analyses have shown that export growth leads to raise of gross wages. Therefore, it is important that support for innovation, growth and competitiveness and other business development support activities (including under PO1) will help regional companies to become more export-oriented and move further in the value chain and efficiency by adding more value to local resources. Ida-Viru county differs from the rest of Estonia by persisting higher unemployment rate, underdevelopment of basic infrastructure, unutilized buildings, large share of industrial wasteland and low value of residential property. Just Transition Fund proposition by EC complements investments in that territory already planned by other POs and national schemes.

Attractive regional business and living environment:

Business environment attractiveness differs a lot in regions: outside capital region the population is ageing and decreasing, bringing along the lack of qualified workforce and the low value of the real estate hinders the access to capital for local companies that would like to invest in increasing the added value of the products/services. Potential of LGs has been underused in developing attractive business environment. Public sector support to increase entrepreneurship, development and innovation capabilities and provision of region-specific support services, will make businesses outside capital region more competitive and benefit more from PO1. To strengthen the role of local governments in development of business environment and to increase the attractiveness of regional business environment requires supporting a variety of different actions in integrated manner. Such actions may include promotion of tourism and destination management, developing business networks, centres of excellence and clusters in region-specific areas, promoting entrepreneurship and remote work, business diagnostics, training and other activities prescribed in county development strategy. There may also be need to combine such actions with some targeted investments (visit sites, better use of potential of industrial areas and other technical infrastructure necessary for business activities (such as access roads), public urban space, including enlivening town centres and reusing built heritage, product development and business cooperation centres or incubators).

Accessible high-quality public services:

To grant access to high-quality public services, the measure provides opportunity for service providers in a functional area to plan for an integrated set of actions needed to achieve expected results. Such actions may include development of public services (improved service quality and innovative ways to provide services, e.g. e-services, mobile services, services provided in cooperation with LG, community services, various pilot projects) as well as some adjustments of public services infrastructure (mostly multifunctional service centres or filling gaps in the service provision network, promoting sustainable water management).

Enhanced capabilities of LG:

It is necessary to develop the capability on local and regional level (local governments, local government associations, county development centres, etc.) to implement county development strategy and generate high-impact projects. Necessary interventions include:

- research, analyses, expert assessments, consultancy that support economic development and service design as well as design of service network;
- development programmes and training of local and regional key participants to support and enhance development capacity (focusing on services, business, labour market, skills and economic development);
- supporting network operation (task force and expert groups that comprise the representatives of regional key participants for achieving particular objective).

The aim of the research, analyses and expert assessments is to help prepare other projects and to improve projects quality. Trainings and support of network operation are coordinated centrally and made available to all relevant actors at the local and regional level.

Supported activities provide accessible and quality services for citizens and better employment and business development opportunities outside capital region.

Expected outcome is:

- enhanced R&D capacity of regional businesses and improved cooperation with R&D organizations;
- increased value added of regional business;
- addition of well-paid jobs;
- improved accessibility of high-quality public services;
- decreased area of under-used buildings and territories in urban centers;
- enhanced LGs capacity to provide high-quality public services;
- enhanced LGs capacity to implement strategies, generate and implement projects;
- network and organization of services correspond to the needs of declining population.

In the implementation of investments in infrastructure principles of accessibility and universal design are taken into account. In the implementation of service development equal non-discrimination participatory and accessibility, principles are taken into account. In the enhancement of capabilities of local governments equal non-discrimination participatory principles are taken into account.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

Local governments, county development centres and other regional organizations, SMEs, NGOs, regional water enterprises.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant.

In the implementation of investments in infrastructure, principles of accessibility and universal design are taken into account. In the implementation of service development, equal non-discrimination participatory and accessibility principles are taken into account. In the enhancement of capabilities of local governments equal non-discrimination participatory principles are taken into account.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

Specific objective is implemented in the form of "other territorial tool" and is based on workforce catchment area level strategies, which describe multi-sectoral development challenges and needs of the specific functional region.

In case of Estonia, the functional areas have developed based on a network of towns/cities. Each such town/city acts as a centre for its surrounding rural areas providing specialized services, jobs (as centre of the workforce catchment area), transport connections to other towns/cities. The functional areas (in terms of commuting data) in Estonia greatly coincide with the county borders. The counties in Estonia are the most common co-operation area of providing public services, organizing public transport and providing support services for the enterprises. Due to these reasons after the territorial-administrative reform, the regional level development strategies in Estonia were created all at the county level.

Specific objective targets all functional areas in Estonia. Considering the regional development challenges, Tallinn urban area is excluded from the scope of the measure. Special attention is paid to South-East Estonia and Ida-Viru region, to support the catch-up with the rest of the country. When enlivening the smaller town centres, special focus will be given to the ones that are under heritage protection.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

Presence and extent of interregional and transnational actions depends on development strategies and the activities chosen. Border regions collaborate with neighbouring regions (for example Valga-Valka and Narva-Ivangorod twin cities) in order to solve mutual problems, in particular through participation in cross-border programs such as Central Baltic Programme, Baltic Sea Region Programme, Estonia-Latvia Programme, Estonia-Russia Programme.

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

n/a

2.1.8.2.2 Indicators

Table 143: Output indicators								
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC076	Integrated projects for territorial development	Nr of projects	42	135
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC001	Enterprises supported	Nr of enterprises	15	160
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC002	Enterprises supported by grants	Nr of enterprises	0	10
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC004	Enterprises with non-financial support	Nr of enterprises	15	150
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PS002	Number of new training programmes	Nr of programmes	8	20
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PS001	Number of renewed services	Number of services	10	70
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC075	Strategies for integrated territorial development supported	Strategies	0	15
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RC074	Population covered by projects in the framework of strategies for integrated territorial development	Nr of population	780 000	780 000

2.1.8.2.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 145: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	ERDF	Transition	ii	131bis	83 890 000
8	ERDF	Transition	ii	121	70 000 000
8	ERDF	Transition	ii	132	3 500 000

Table 146: Dimension 2 - form of financing

Table 144: Result indicators											
Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support	Eur	0	2021	9 300 000		
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PSR03	Number of projects where use of surface or administrative costs reduced min 20%	Nr of projects	0	2021	50		
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PSR05	Number of developed service networks	Nr of service networks	0	2021	20		
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PSR04	Number of organisations benefitting from integrated projects	Nr of organisations	0	2021	270		
8	ii	ERDF	Transition	PSR06	Number of persons who passed the training (to improve their professional competence)	Nr of persons	0	2021	2 000		
Priority No		Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)					
8		ERDF	Transition	ii	01	157 390 000					

Table 147: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	ERDF	Transition	ii	37	157 390 000

Table 148: Dimension 4 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 149: Dimension 5 – ESF+, ERDF, CF and JTF gender equality dimension

Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.9. JUST TRANSITION

2.1.9.1. Specific objective: enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union's 2030 target for climate and a climate-neutral economy by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement

2.1.9.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

The related types of actions *Text field [8 000]*

In order to overcome the transition challenges and address the development needs described in Territorial Just Transition Plan, two strands of interventions are foreseen. This approach is chosen to alleviate in the most effective fashion the unique challenges faced by the Ida-Viru region in view of the transition to a carbon-neutral economy by year 2050. Responses to the development needs will have to address effectively both the **immediate effects** of the transition and the **long-term structural changes** needed in the Ida-Viru region.

The first strand is called "Economy and labour" and aims to solve what most of the local stakeholders and the general population of Ida-Viru perceive as the main challenge of the transition: restructuring and diversifying the local economy and workforce. Actions foreseen as part of this programmatic strand largely correspond to activities described in points a, b, c, d, k, l and m of paragraph 2 Article 8 of the Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund.

The first and foremost challenge of the transition is **transforming the economy** of the Ida-Viru region with the view of diversifying it and creating new high value-added jobs. For that reason the main emphasis in the first strand is on supporting grand investments, to attract relatively large industrial developments and to create new businesses with higher value-added jobs. Complementing the investments in fixed assets, support for increasing the knowledge intensity of enterprises is also foreseen. This includes not only research and development (R&D) and innovation activities by enterprises, but also empowering local educational and research institutions, to achieve the long-term effect in the region. As diversification of the economy is identified as an important development need in the transition process, establishing a dedicated support infrastructure for the emergence of a lively **ecosystem** of microenterprises, start-ups, creative industries, ICT and other auxiliary fields will be paramount to the holistic transformation of the region's economy. Services in support of economic diversification and SMEs investment grants are provided for that reason.

The second major challenge posed by the transition is **supporting the people and communities impacted by the transition process**. Through the Just Transition Fund (*JTF*), we will need to provide a safety net for those whose transition will start with losing their income. We need to encourage effective **re-profiling** and provide comprehensive **labor mobility** solutions for the employees of the oil shale sector, if we want to avoid long-term unemployment and poverty. Labour market measures, such as Temporary income support to workers who are transitioning into jobs and reskilling and upskilling programmes for the oil shale workers is foreseen. To match the needs of the new businesses in the regions and enterprises developing new business models, the region will need a wider augmented **training programme** as well, ensuring the up-to-date skills profile that matches the new growth areas. Therefore, increasing the volume of in-service training, vocational and higher education offering is also necessary to achieve the positive results of the transition process.

The second strand is called "Environment and social inclusion" and tackles the social, environmental and community aspects of the transition. Actions foreseen as part of this programmatic strand largely correspond to activities described in points d, e, f, g, h, i, j and o of paragraph 2 Article 8 of the Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund.

Alternative climate-neutral **heating** solutions will also need to be developed for the larger municipalities of Ida-Virumaa, since historically they have been heated by waste heat and gases from electricity production and shale oil production. Intervention for decoupling district heating from oil shale in major towns in Ida-Viru region is planned.

During the transition we will need to **address the legacy environmental and health effects of oil shale exploitation** through rewilding and rehabilitation of contaminated brownfield sites, increasing the region's circular capacity (while developing it as part of restructuring the economy) and better understanding the health effects of oil shale processing. Support for alleviating environmental and health impacts of oil shale mining and processing is provided to create preconditions for reusing contaminated areas for the needs of other sectors, e.g.

forestry, brownfield industrial development, etc. To further understand the health effects of oil shale processing, bio-monitoring is carried out, which is one of the most effective methods for assessing human exposure to natural and synthetic compounds in the living and working environment.

Empowering people's wellbeing in Ida-Virumaa is also vital for there transition process. A measure for development of social and health services supporting social change is developed to ensure the development of social and health care sectors in order to create a unified and easily accessible network of services in the region, develop better links between the health and social care system, including child protection, and support socio-economic development, thereby contributing to the process of fair transition in Ida-Virumaa.

Local municipalities play a key role in the region in mitigating transition impacts and speeding up the transition process. As the municipalities at the same time have to cope with budgetary cut-backs related to decreasing income from the oil shale sector, investments made by **local governments to mitigate the effects of transition** will be supported, e.g. in the field of providing **social and care services** (since a lot of associated activities could previously be performed by the unemployed members of oil shale households), **energy performance**, which will allow local governments' to trim their expenses, and **local mobility** in order to knit the region closer together as a labour market.

It is important to keep in mind that people are not merely subjects of the transition, but also **makers** of it. It is paramount to ensure "ownership" of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy by the local community via encouraging individual agency in the process. Support for regional initiatives amplifying the just transition is provided for the communities and NGOs for activities that result from or contribute to the transition to climate neutrality and are in line with the activities supported under the JTF, e.g. community-based educational and social inclusion initiatives; promotion of environmental awareness and circular practices; social, cultural and other innovation; preservation, development and interpretation of local industrial heritage and identity; youth-oriented and youth-initiated activities, etc.

The main target groups *Text field [1 000]*

Both new and existing companies (mostly SMEs), who are interested in job creation and in developing knowledge and technology intensive business model in Ida-Viru county, R&D institutions, higher education institutions, regional organizations, municipalities, communities, non-profit associations, district heating providers, population exposed to environmental and social impacts of the transition process, workers in oil shale sector, learners acquiring adult education.

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination *Text field [2 000]*

In the preparation and implementation of interventions, the possible impact on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination are taken into account and safeguarding actions taken where relevant. Information about just transition process and support measures will be made available in Estonian and Russian language throughout the implementation process. Ida-Viru has the highest gender pay gap in Estonia and there is a significant labor gap between Estonians and non-Estonians as well, due to the latter's insufficient Estonian skills. In training activities it is important to secure an offering of Russian-language curricula combined with in-depth Estonian language study in order to support the readiness of adult learners to study in a familiar language environment and to secure them with wider career opportunities in different language environments at the same time.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools *Text field [2 000]*

The specific territories targeted is Ida-Viru county as it is the region most affected by the transition to climate-neutral economy in Estonia.

The use of territorial tools is not planned for JTF but all interventions are developed in close partnership with regional organizations.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions *Text field [2 000]*

The interregional and transnational actions are not directly covered by the interventions, but the regional development organization (association of local municipalities) is encouraged to participate in the work of the

Just Transition Platform for support and knowledge related to the just transition in other regions in EU undergoing the similar transition.

Ida-Viru county is a border region that collaborates with neighbouring regions (for example Narva-Ivangorod twin cities; Finland's coastal regions across the Gulf of Finland) in order to solve mutual problems, in particular through participation in cross-border programs such as Central Baltic Programme, Baltic Sea Region Programme, Estonia-Russia Programme.

The planned use of financial instruments *Text field [1 000]*

The use of financial instruments is not planned in the JTF interventions. Complementarity with other pillars of Just Transition Mechanism is covered in the territorial just transition plan.

2.1.9.1.2 Indicators

Table 150: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 01	Enterprises supported	Number of enterprises		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 02	Enterprises supported by grants	Number of enterprises		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 04	/ Enterprises with non-financial support	Number of enterprises		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 10	Enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of enterprises		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	EECO 11	Total number of participants	Number of participants		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 22	Additional production capacity for renewable energy	MW		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCO 38	Surface area of rehabilitated land supported	ha		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	n/a	Volume of municipal investments	euro		
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	n/a	Number of participating organisations	Number of organisations		

Table 151: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RCR 01	Jobs created in	Number of jobs	0	2021		SFOS / proje	

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					supported entities					ct reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 02	Private investments matching public support	euro	0	2021		SFOS / project reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 03	Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	Number of enterprises	0	2021		SFOS / project reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 04	SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation	Number of enterprises	0	2021		SFOS / project reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 05	SMEs innovating in-house	Number of enterprises	0	2021		SFOS / project reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 10 2	Research jobs created in supported entities	Number of jobs	0	2021		SFOS / project reports	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	EE CR 03	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Number of participants	0	2021		SFOS / Statistics Estonia	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	EE CR 04	Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Number of participants	0	2021		SFOS / Statistics Estonia	
9	JTF	JTF	Transition	RC R 29	Estimated greenhouse	t CO _{2eq}	0	2021		SFOS / project	

					se gas emissions					repor ts	
9	JTF	JTF	Transit ion	RC R 52	Rehabilit ated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or other uses	ha	0	2021		SFOS / proje ct repor ts	
9	JTF	JTF	Transit ion	n.a	Public services with approved quality	Number of services	0	2021		SFOS / proje ct repor ts	
9	JTF	JTF	Transit ion	n.a	Additional funding matching public support	euro	0	2021		SFOS / proje ct repor ts	

2.1.9.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Table 152: Dimension 1 - intervention field					
Priority No	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	002	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	003	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	004	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	010	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	011	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	012	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	013	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	020	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	021	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	023	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	024	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	025	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	026	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	027	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	028	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	043	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	045	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	053	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	066	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	069	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	072	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	081	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	085	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	120	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	126	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	138	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	144	
9	JTF	Transition	JTF	147	

Transfers from		Transfers to		Breakdown by year							
Fund	Category of region	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Cohesion Fund	N/A										
EMFAF	N/A										

Table 157: Transfers between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to another Fund or Funds (summary)

		ERDF			ESF+			Cohesion Fund	EMFAF	AMIF	ISF	BMVI	Total
		More developed	Transition	Less developed	More developed	Transition	Less developed						
ERDF	More developed												
	Transition												
	Less developed												
ESF+	More developed												
	Transition												
	Less developed												
Cohesion Fund	N/A												
EMFAF	N/A												
Total													

Justification [3500 characters; lisatakse avaliku konsultatsiooni ajaks]

3.2. JTF: allocation in the programme and transfers

3.2.1. JTF ALLOCATION TO THE PROGRAMME PRIOR TO TRANSFERS BY PRIORITY

Table 158: JTF allocation to the programme in accordance with Article 3 JTF Regulation, prior to transfers

JTF priority 1	
	Total

3.2.2. TRANSFERS TO THE JTF AS COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORT

N/A – Estonia is not planning to transfer ERDF or ESF+ to JTF.

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Technical assistance	Priority 5 Technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR		ERDF or ESF+ or JTF or Cohesion Fund											
		Total ERDF	More developed											
			Transition											
			Less developed											
			Outermost and northern sparsely populated											
		Total ESF+	More developed											
			Transition											
			Less developed											
			Outermost and northern sparsely populated											


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		JTF* *	Article 3 JTF Regulation resources											
			Article 4 JTF Regulation resources											
		Total Cohesion Fund												
Grand total														

4. ENABLING CONDITIONS

4.1. Thematic enabling conditions

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1.1 Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy	ERDF	1) developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	YES	Smart specialisation strategy(ies) shall be supported by: 1. Analysis of challenges including bottlenecks for innovation diffusion 2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body, responsible for the	1. YES 2. YES 3. YES 4. YES 5. YES 6. YES 7. YES	Estonian Research and Development Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Plan 2021-2035	Criteria are fulfilled with the new Estonian Research and Development Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Plan 2021-2035 (TAIE 2021-2035) approved by government on 29 October 2020.

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>management of the smart specialisation strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy 4. Functioning of stakeholder co-operation ("entrepreneurial discovery process") 5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems, where relevant 6. Where relevant, actions to support industrial transition 7. Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy. 		<p>https://mkm.ee/et/eesmargid-tegevused/arengukavad</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> TAIE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peer Review of the Estonian Research and Innovation system: The Estonian government requested specific support from the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility (PSF) to support the work of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (MoEAC) and Ministry of Education and Research (MoER) in preparing to produce a joint research, development, innovation and entrepreneurship strategy for the period 2021-2027 and onwards, via a general assessment of the effectiveness of the research and innovation (R&I) system, and a specific assessment of the role and impact of the R&I system in promoting added-value creation. 2. Shared responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Education and Research; a steering committee is being established (TAIE juhtkomisjon). 3. Annual reports will be submitted; also steering committee meetings will be held regularly, to monitor the progress of the strategy. At least two mid-term evaluations are planned. In addition an additional study for renewal of the governance model and monitoring system for smart specialization policy in Estonia will be finalized by May 2021. 4. According to the Estonian Research and Development Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Plan 2021–2035 (TAIE) new governance model and implementation model will be introduced, including renewed stakeholder co-operation process in the framework of TAIE focus areas. 5. A redesigned applied research and experimental development programme will be launched in February 2021. 6. According to TAIE, the transition from a linear economic model to a circular economy, the adaptation of companies'

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>business models to low-carbon and circular economy-friendly and sustainable and environmentally sustainable technology developers and deployment will be supported.</p> <p>7. Measures to support the creation of higher added value products and export will be introduced as envisaged in TAIE.</p>
1.2 National or regional broadband plan	ERDF	v) enhancing digital connectivity		<p>A national or regional broadband plan is in place which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An assessment of the investment gap that needs to be addressed to ensure that all Union citizens have access to very high capacity networks¹⁰, based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a recent mapping¹¹ of existing private and public infrastructure and quality of service using standard broadband mapping indicators b) a consultation on planned investments in line with State aid requirements 	<p>1.YES 1a. SHALL BE COMPLETE D NO LATER THAN 2021 1b. NO LATER THAN 2021 2.YES 2a.YES 2b.YES 2c.YES 3.YES 4.YES 5.YES</p>		<p>The national broadband plan is mainly part of „Estonian e-state strategy for 2025“ where problems are defined and goals will be agreed.</p> <p>1a. Detailed mapping on VHC networks will be done 2021 or 2022 (before giving state aid). ECC art 22 obliges national regulatory authority to conduct the mapping by 21 December 2023.</p> <p>1b. Consultation on planned investments in VHC networks will be done after the mapping.</p> <p>2. Appropriate public intervention conditions will be set with minister decree for applying support.</p> <p>2a. In Estonia there are approximately 60 000 households in sparsely populated areas, where state aid is needed to build VHC networks. 5G corridors/areas market failure will be determined.</p> <p>https://www.netikaart.ee</p> <p>2b. Consultations with stakeholders to find the best investment model will last until summer of 2021.</p> <p>2c. The future state aid measures will include all appropriate available financing sources.</p> <p>3. EU Broadband Cost-Reduction Directive was transposed into Estonian national legislation in 2016. Additional changes to relevant legislation as also been done to reduce red tape costs. For example, when installing new fibre-optic cables on existing</p>

¹⁰ In line with the objective defined in article 3(2)(a) in conjunction with recital 24 of the [Proposal for a] Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Code].

¹¹ In line with article 22 of the [Proposal for a] Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Code].

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>2. The justification of planned public intervention on the basis of sustainable investment models that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enhance affordability and access to open, quality and future-proof infrastructure and services b) adjust the forms of financial assistance to the market failures identified c) allow for a complementary use of different forms of financing from EU, national or regional sources <p>3. Measures to support demand and use of Very High Capacity (VHC) networks, including actions to facilitate their roll-out, in particular through the effective implementation of the EU Broadband Cost-Reduction Directive¹²</p>			<p>electricity poles, no additional permits need to be applied from the municipality and in case of building the cable line that connects broadband network termination point with access point in end-users premises, no notification needs to made to the municipality.</p> <p>4. The function of Broadband Competence Office is fulfilled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, who coordinates with other relevant bodies: Ministry of Finance (regional development, state aid, ESIF funds etc.), Ministry of Rural Affairs (rural development), National Regulatory Authority (mapping, market analysis, access regulation).</p> <p>5. Estonian National Regulatory Authority manages a database, where address level data on broadband speeds can be monitored (www.netikaart.ee)</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				4. Technical assistance and expert advice mechanisms, such as a Broadband Competence Office, to reinforce the capacity of local stakeholders and advise project promoters 5. A monitoring mechanism based on standard broadband mapping indicators			
2.1 Strategic policy framework to support energy efficiency renovation of residential and non-residential buildings	ERDF and CF	i) promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	YES	1. A national long term renovation strategy to support the renovation of the national stock of residential and non-residential buildings is adopted, in line with the requirements of Directive 2018/844 amending Directive 2010/31/ EU on the energy performance of buildings, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entails indicative milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050 b. Provides an indicative outline of financial resources to support the implementation of the strategy c. Defines effective mechanisms for promoting investments in building renovation 	1. YES 1a. YES 1b. YES 1c. YES 2. YES	Long-term Building Renovation Strategy (https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/ee_ltrs_2020.pdf) National Development Plan of the Energy Sector until 2030 (https://www.mkm.ee/sites/default/files/enmak_2030.pdf)	1. To meet this requirement, new national strategy for reconstruction of buildings was adopted on 9 July 2020. Notification on the new strategy was sent to the European Commission (see article 4 of the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU and paragraph 4 of the Estonia’s Energy Sector Organization Act). 1a. New strategy includes requirements outlined in article 1 section 2 subsection 2a of the Energy Efficiency Directive 2018/844/EU. The necessary analysis was partially written in “Estonia’s National Development Plan of the Energy Sector until 2030”, but no indicative targets for 2030, 2040 or 2050 were set in the document. Within the framework of the “National Development Plan of the Energy Sector until 2030” research development programme, more detailed studies were commissioned that contributed to the preparation of new “Estonia’s Long-term Building Renovation Strategy” that sets out indicative milestones for the existing building stock (2030 – 22%, 2040 – 64% and 2050 – 100%) in chapter 7.1. 1b. The requirement is met with the new “Long-term Building Renovation Strategy” (described in chapter 7.2) and partially covered with the annual state budget strategy process. The “National Development Plan of the Energy Sector until 2030” has indications, but they are outdated. 1c. The requirement is met with the new “Long-term Building Renovation Strategy” as the “National Development Plan of the

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				2. Energy efficiency improvement measures to achieve required energy savings			Energy Sector until 2030” does not cover the requirement. Effective mechanisms for promoting investments are described in chapter 10. A separate study was also commissioned by the Ministry of Finance of Estonia during the previous programming period (2014-2020). 2. The requirement is met with the Energy Sector Organization Act (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/502092016001/consolidate/current) chapter 8. Government Actions in Promoting Energy Efficiency and Developing Energy Services and Long-term Building Renovation Strategy” chapter 10. Measures (https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/ee_ltrs_2020.pdf).
2.2 Governance of the energy sector	ERDF and CF	i) promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	YES	The National Energy and Climate Plan is notified to the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 ¹³ and in consistency with the long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives under the Paris Agreement and includes: 1. All elements required by the template in Annex I of that ¹⁴	1. YES 2. YES	“National Energy and Climate Plan until 2030” https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/ee_final_necp_main_en.pdf	1. The requirements are met by the “Estonia’s 2030 National Energy and Climate Plan” that was submitted to the European Commission on December 2019. 2. The National Energy and Climate Plan include the targets and measures to promote low-carbon energy under the section “3. Policies and Measures” and “ 5.3. Overview of investment needs”.

¹³ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1).

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, amending Regulations (EC) No 663/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 94/22/EC, 98/70/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2009/73/EC, 2010/31/EU, 2012/27/EU and 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 2009/119/EC and (EU) 2015/652 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				2. An outline of envisaged financing resources and mechanisms for measures promoting low-carbon energy			
2.4 Effective disaster risk management framework.	ERDF and CF:	iv) Promoting climate change adaptation, and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	YES	<p>A national or regional disaster risk management plan, established on the basis of risk assessments, taking due account of the likely impacts of climate change and the existing climate adaptation strategies, is in place and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A description of key risks, assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU¹⁵, reflecting current and evolving risk profile. The assessment shall build, for climate related risks, on climate change projections and scenarios. 2. Description of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response measures to address the key risks identified. The measures shall be prioritized in proportion to the risks and their economic impact, capacity gaps¹⁶, effectiveness and 	1.YES 2.YES 3. YES		<p>1. Contingency plans for climate change, such as storms and large-scale forest and landscape fires, and floods in densely populated areas were prepared in Estonia by July 1, 2019. They were based on risk analyzes, which in turn took into account the “Estonian Future Climate until 2100” climate scenarios developed by the Environmental Agency. The emergency risk assessments (based on the Emergency Act § 9: https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/516052020003/consolide) were renewed in December 2020, include among other things measures to reduce the risk of an emergency (prevention, preparedness and response measures). More information can be found from the Ministry of the Interior’ website: https://www.siseministeerium.ee/et/siseturvalisuse-valdkond/kriisireguleerimine or from the Rescue Board’ website: https://www.rescue.ee/et/haedaolukorra-riskide-hindamine .</p> <p>2. In Estonia, risk analyzes have been prepared for three emergencies caused by climate change (storms, floods in densely populated areas, large-scale landscape and forest fires). Capability analysis is an integral part of emergency risk analysis. The capacity analysis describes the activities needed to prevent, prepare for and respond to the emergency. The analysis also describes the preparedness of the authorities, stakeholders and the capabilities available. That includes description of the responsible authorities, capacity gaps and measures to prevent gaps, bringing out possible alternatives and their estimated cost.</p>

¹⁵ Decision No. 1313/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

¹⁶ As assessed in the risk management capabilities assessment required under Article 6 (b) of Decision 1313/2013

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				efficiency, taking into account possible alternatives 3. Information on financing resources and mechanisms available for covering the operation and maintenance costs related to prevention, preparedness and response			<p>The capability analysis identifies significant and critical capability gaps separately and prioritizes (with finances) capability gaps (agency budget, application for additional funding through national budget strategy, external resources etc).</p> <p>A summary of the national emergency risk assessments was submitted to the European Commission by the end of December 2020 (according to the UCPM Article 6 (1d): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013D1313-20190321)</p> <p>3. The operational and maintenance costs of emergency prevention, preparation and response shall be covered by the budgets of the agencies, the Government Reserve and, in the case of major emergencies, also by the EU Solidarity Fund. Relevant information is available to the authorities.</p> <p>Due to the decentralized system, the authorities responsible for the organisation of an emergency, according to the Emergency Act are also responsible for their own budget planning in their field of expertise.</p> <p>The Government regulation annex 108: "List of events that could lead to an emergency and that are subject to a risk assessment, and the authorities in charge of preparing an emergency risk assessment" establish following events and authorities, who are responsible to assess the risks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rescue event – the Rescue Board; 2) Police event – the Police and Border Guard Board; 3) Cyber incident – the Information System Authority; 4) Radiological or nuclear accident – the Environmental Board; 5) Health care event – the Health Board; 6) Infectious animal disease – the Veterinary and Food Board; 7) Event caused by the malicious or terrorist use of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear material (added in May 2020) – the Internal Security Service.

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							This time, the focus is on the impact of climate change on emergencies. It is also planned to better prioritize capacity gaps and appropriate measures.
2.6 Updated planning for waste management	Cohesion Fund	vi) promoting the transition to a circular economy	YES	<p>Waste management plan(s) are in place in accordance with Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851/EU and covering the entire territory of the Member State and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, including the type, quantity and source of waste generated and an evaluation of their future development taking into account the expected impacts of measures set out in the Waste Prevention Programme(s) developed in accordance with Article 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive 2018/851/EU An assessment of existing waste collection schemes, including the material and territorial coverage of separate collection and measures to improve its operation, as well as the 	<p>1. YES 2. YES 3. YES 4. YES</p>	<p>National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) 2014-2020 https://www.en.vir.ee/et/eesmargid-tegevused/jaatmed/riigi-jaatmekava-2014-2020 * Government made a decision on 25.02.2021 to extend the current national waste management plan and it's implementing report Dokument: „Riigi jäätmekava 2014–2020“ täitmise aruanne ja riigi jäätmekava tagasiulatuvalt pikendamise [riigikantselei.ee]</p>	<p>As a state of play - the criteria are fulfilled partly and is based on the existing National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) and its implementation report. It will be fulfilled fully via the extension of the National Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 which also addresses the Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851/EU and covering the entire territory of the Member State. The extension is yet to be approved by the Government but is scheduled for February 2021. The extension is an intermediate step that is required to fully cover the respective criteria, but it is also provisional, as the key analysis for future waste framework are still ongoing. Estonia has undertaken with the expertise of the World Bank a “Waste system analysis” which is financed by the The Structural Reform Support Programme (EC Contract No. REFORM/GA2020/007) and an additional nationally funded study “Current situation, future potential and necessary measures of the Estonian circular economy and waste sector” which is being conducted by Technopolis Group Eesti OÜ. Both studies are to be completed in the first half of 2021. Furthermore, the MoE analysis for the current waste management plan 2014-20 concluded that goals set in NWMP are still relevant. The extension of the NWMP was planned to be executed already by the end of 2020, but has been delayed because of government crisis management in relation to the ongoing COVID situation and additionally due to the current change in the Estonian government. These 2 analyses together with the baseline assessment conducted by the Estonian Environmental Agency, lay the basis of a renewed waste management strategy as well as for further in depth shaping of the new EU funding period and other actions (e.g. plan for marine litter, food waste prevention plan) . As the current NWMP stipulates the most relevant priority areas and objectives, the proposed waste management support interventions are based on the goals of the National Waste</p>

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>need for new collection schemes</p> <p>3. An investment gap assessment justifying the need for the closure of existing waste installations and additional or upgraded waste infrastructure, with an information of the sources of revenues available to meet operation and maintenance costs</p> <p>4. Information on how future site locations will be determined and on the capacity of future waste treatment installations</p>		<p>A report on the implementation of the Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 https://eelroud.valitsus.ee/main/mount/docList/57a2a100-e94f-4210-bf9c-4f444aea546a *The national waste management plan and its strategic environmental assessment are expected to be ready in November 2022.</p> <p>Waste Act https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/521122020002/consolide</p> <p>Amended Waste and Packaging Acts which are under proceedings in the Parliament, bill SE190</p>	<p>Management Plan and the Waste Framework Directive.</p> <p>In this regard, reduction in waste generation and packaging is a priority as it leads to reduced costs and environmental impacts throughout the whole product chain. Estonia is also still far behind in terms of reaching targets for the recycling of municipal waste. Efficient and effective waste management needs to be developed, including high separate collection rate and availability of suitable recycling capacities.</p> <p>In the context of developing a new National Waste Management Plan, following the waste hierarchy will remain a foundational concept in the NWMP, and it will be framed around 4 pillars as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and conscious production and consumption • Promoting waste prevention and reuse • Increasing safe circulation of materials • Consideration of the impact of waste management on both the human and the natural environment. <p>Adequate requirements are set in the Waste Act and in the Amended Waste and Packaging Acts. The latter is in ratification in the Parliament, but will provide a full legal basis for all planning and strategic approaches in accordance with the Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851/EU and covering the entire territory of the Member State.</p> <p>The criteria will thus be met preliminarily via the extended NWMP as well as via a new strategic approach. The factual and analytical basis of the considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trends in Estonian waste management 2014-2018, The World Bank report “Baseline Review of Estonian Municipal Solid Waste Management System”, report on the implementation of the Waste Management Plan 2014-2020. 2. The World Bank report “Baseline Review of Estonian Municipal Solid Waste Management System” and report on the implementation of the Waste Management Plan 2014-2020.

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						<p>https://m.riigikoгу.ee/tegevus/eelnoud/eelnou/cf2190f4-e433-4590-8667-2ae543bcb20f/1%C3%A4%C3%A4tmeseaduse%20ja%20pakendi%20muutmise%20seadus</p> <p>Trends in Estonian waste management 2014-2018</p> <p>https://jats.keskkonnainfo.ee/failid/laatmekaitluse_trendid_2014-2018.pdf</p> <p>Proposal for the preparation of the Environmental Development Plan 2030</p> <p>https://eelnoud.valitsus.ee/main/mount/docList/c0dd300d-9028-40c3-8fbf-ea9de525fd8e</p>	<p>3. 2020 assessments – situation of organised waste collection in municipalities by Environmental Board and overview of waste management in municipalities by MoE.</p> <p>4. Report on the implementation of the Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 and the extension of NWMP, supported by analysis for future waste framework (World Bank “Waste system analysis” and the Technopolis Group Eesti OÜ study “Current situation, future potential and necessary measures of the Estonian circular economy and waste sector” https://www.envir.ee/sites/default/files/KKO/Uuringud/1.2_ringmajanduse_indikaatorid_lopparuanne_050719.pdf (in Estonian))</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						Plan for marine litter https://www.evir.ee/sites/default/files/news-related-files/mereprugi_plaan.pdf	
3. Comprehensive transport planning at the appropriate level	Cohesion Fund	ii) developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T	YES	Multimodal mapping of existing and planned infrastructures, except at local level, until 2030 is in place which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Includes economic assessment of the planned investments, underpinned by demand analysis and traffic modelling, which should take into account the anticipated impact of rail liberalisation 2. Is consistent with national energy and climate plans 	1. YES 2. YES, indicatively 2021 3. YES, indicatively 2021 4. YES, indicatively 2021 5. N/A 6. YES, indicatively 2021		1. ITF/OECD study (financed by the EC SRSS) for the Estonian Transport and Mobility Master Plan 2021-2030, which also entails the creation of a strategic policy model for the whole of Estonia, encompassing all modalities and is to help Estonian policy makers understand the main drivers of transport activity in Estonia and make evidence-based decisions on the future development of their transport infrastructure. This will be used as an input for the Master Plan (indicatively completed 2021, https://www.mkm.ee/et/eesmargid-tegevused/transport/transpordi-ja-liikuvuse-arengukava-2021). The modelling tool will be able to forecast the evolution of traffic flows and assess the impact of transport policies and investments. It will be designed to be a strategic decision making tool with a time horizon to 2050. ITF/OECD study: https://www.itf-

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		iii) developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Includes investments in core TEN-T network corridors, as defined by [Proposal for a regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) 1316/2013], in line with the respective TEN-T network corridors work plans 4. For investments outside the core TEN-T, ensures complementarity by providing sufficient connectivity of the regions and local communities to the core TEN-T and its nodes 5. Where relevant, reports on the deployment of ERTMS according to Commission Implementing Regulation EU 2017/6 of 5 January 2017 on the European Rail Traffic Management System European deployment plan 6. Promotes multimodality, identifying needs for multimodal or transshipment freight and passengers terminals 7 Includes measures relevant for infrastructure planning aiming at promoting alternative fuels, in line with 			<p>3. The new Transport and Mobility Master Plan will outline the general direction of investment priorities in line with TEN-T network corridor plans. In detail investment plans are reflected in 4 year transport programmes, which are revised annually and in detail infrastructure investment plans in each respective authority (e.g. Road Administration and Estonian Railways). Current Transport Programme: https://www.mkm.ee/sites/default/files/transpordi_programm_2020-2023.pdf</p> <p>4. Complementarity will be ensured with the Master Plan.</p> <p>5. N/A, deployment of ERTMS is not planned.</p> <p>6. This will be part of the Master Plan.</p> <p>7. This will be part of the Master Plan.</p> <p>8. This is included in the Master Plan on a strategic level, main directions in the transport programmes, and in detail activities in the Traffic Safety strategy. At the strategic level, the Road Safety Risk Assessment is part of the Transport Development Plan and more detailed activities are described in the Road Safety Program. Funding is provided for the safety of traffic-hazardous areas, as well as the methodology for selecting traffic-hazardous areas. Methodology: https://www.mkm.ee/sites/default/files/riigiteede_teehoiukava_2020-2030.pdf</p> <p>9. Information on the financing resources corresponding to investments will be part of the infrastructure investment plan and in the transport programmes, which will be in line with the Master Plan. Operation and maintenance costs will be covered in strategic level in the transport programmes and in detail in relevant infrastructure management plans for each respective authority (e.g. Road Administration and Estonian Railways).</p>

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				<p>the relevant national policy frameworks</p> <p>8. Presents a summary of the assessment of road safety risks in line with existing national road safety strategies, together with a mapping of the affected roads and sections and providing with a prioritisation of the corresponding investments</p> <p>9. Provides information on financing resources corresponding to the planned investments and required to cover operation and maintenance costs of the existing and planned infrastructures</p>			
4.1 Strategic policy framework for active labour market policies	ESF	a) Improving access to employment of all jobseekers, in particular youth and long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and of inactive people, promoting self-employment and the social economy;	YES	<p>A strategic policy framework for active labour market policies in the light of the Employment guidelines is in place and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrangements for conducting jobseekers' profiling and assessment of their needs 2. Information on job vacancies and employment opportunities taking into account the needs of the labour market 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES 2. YES 3. YES 4. YES 5. YES 	<p>Welfare Development Plan (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/eesmargid_ja_tegevused/Sotsiaalse_turvalisuse_kaasatuse_ja_vordsete_voimaluste_arengukava_2016_2023/heaolu_2016- </p>	<p>The strategic framework for active labor market policies is described in the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 https://www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023</p> <p>. Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 includes all the target goals for the employment.</p> <p>1. The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund organizes services in accordance with the Employment Services and Benefits Act.</p> <p>One of the objectives of the Employment Program 2017-2020 is to support starting entrepreneurs and longevity of new businesses.</p> <p>Estonian labor force is constantly monitored through the Estonian Labor Force Survey (https://www.stat.ee/index.php/et/avastatistikat/metoodika-ja- </p>

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Arrangements for ensuring that its design, implementation, monitoring and review is conducted in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders 4. Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review of active labour market policies 5. For youth employment interventions, evidence-based and targeted pathways towards young people not in employment, education or training including outreach measures and based on quality requirements taking into account criteria for quality apprenticeships and traineeships, including in the context of Youth Guarantee schemes implementation. 		<p>2023 juhtkomitee.pdf</p> <p>Unemployment Insurance Fund Development Plan for 2020-2023 https://www.tootukassa.ee/sites/arengukava/2020-2023.pdf</p>	<p>kvaliteet/statistikatood/2020/40701). Aim of the study is to assess labor market situation and have an overview of economic activity (employment, unemployment) and working conditions.</p> <p>2. OSKA (https://oska.kutsekoda.ee/en/) analysis is continuously carried out to analyze the needs for labour and skills necessary for Estonia's economic development over the next 10 years. Analysis is carried out in cooperation with the following Estonian ministries: the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>3. The steering committee of the Welfare Development Plan includes, in addition to the ministries, representatives of various social partners https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/eesmargid_ja_tegevused/Sotsiaalse_turvalisuse_kaasatus_ja_vordsete_voimaluste_arengukava_2016_2023/heaolu_2016-2023_juhtkomitee.pdf.</p> <p>The Supervisory Board of the Unemployment Insurance Fund is formed in the following way: the Government appoints one member; Trade Union Confederation and the Employees' Trade Union Organization each appoint one member; Employers' Confederation appoints two members. The minister responsible for the field is a member of the Council by office.</p> <p>4. A report on the fulfillment of the objectives of the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 is drawn annually and presented to the steering committee of the Welfare Development Plan.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Unemployment Insurance Fund Development Plan for 2020-2023, the Supervisory Board evaluates the implementation of the Development Plan and the Annual Plan on the basis of reports submitted to the Supervisory Board.</p> <p>5. In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs (https://www.sm.ee/et/noortegarantii) and the Ministry of Education and Research, an action plan has been prepared for the implementation of the European Union Youth</p>

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							Guarantee (https://www.tooelu.ee/et/Noortegarantii), which provides an overview of the planned activities, the roles of different organizations in the implementation stage and performance evaluation based on activities.
4.3 Strategic policy framework for the education and training system at all levels.	ERDF and ESF	<p>ii) Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure;</p> <p>ESF:</p> <p>e) Improving the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems, to support acquisition of key competences including digital skills;</p> <p>f) Promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to</p>	YES	<p>A national or regional strategic policy framework for the education and training system is in place and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-based systems for skills anticipation and forecasting 2. Graduate tracking mechanisms and services for quality and effective guidance for learners of all ages 3. Measures to ensure equal access to, participation in and completion of quality, relevant and inclusive education and training, and acquisition of key competences at all levels 4. A coordination mechanism covering all levels of education and training and a clear assignment of responsibilities between the relevant national and/or regional bodies 5. Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review of the strategic policy framework 	<p>1.YES 2.YES 3.YES 4.YES 5.YES 6.YES 7.YES 8.YES</p>	<p>Education Strategy 2021-2035 https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/strategic-planning-2021-2035</p>	<p>Education Strategy 2021-2035 (to be approved by the government in 2021 in compliance with all-encompassing strategy Estonia 2035) https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/strategic-planning-2021-2035 covers education and training system policy framework.</p> <p>Education Strategy 2021-2035 is a comprehensive strategy in the area of education (all levels, formal, non-formal and informal education). In order to achieve the objective and sub-objectives of the strategy, there are programmes that are prepared and modified within the framework of the state budget strategy and the state budget.</p> <p>1. OSKA system (https://oska.kutsekoda.ee/en/) is a system of labour market monitoring and future skills forecasting. The systems' sectoral analyses are used by career specialists to guarantee quality and effective guidance for learners of all ages.</p> <p>1.a. Annual analysis of the implementation of the Strategy. Administrative data from various sources (Estonian Education Information System, Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Estonian National Social Insurance Board, the Population register, the register of persons eligible to be drafted and Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund) is used to analyse the labour market success of VET and HE graduates. Statistics and analyses on MoER webpage: https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/statistics-and-analysis</p> <p>2. Education Strategy 2021-2035 and the State Budget Strategy programmes cover all levels and fields of education and training.</p> <p>In order to implement the general objective and strategic objectives of the development plan, a program will be created every year, which will be prepared and amended within the framework of the budget strategy and the preparation of the state budget. To implement the Strategy, Education and Youth</p>

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		tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all; g) Promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility		6. Measures to target low-skilled, low-qualified adults and those with disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and upskilling pathways 7. Measures to support teachers, trainers and academic staff as regards appropriate learning methods, assessment and validation of key competences 8. Measures to promote mobility of learners and staff and transnational collaboration of education and training providers, including through recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications			<p>Program 2021-2024 has been approved by the minister. In the program, there are specific measures and activities planned and resources allocated to guarantee equal access to, participation in and completion of quality education and training at all levels. Link to programme document: https://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/haridus_ja_noorteprogramm_2021_2024.pdf</p> <p>3. Education Strategy 2021-2035 and the State Budget Strategy programmes cover all levels and fields of education and training. A coordination of strategy implementation is described in its chapter "Management and implementation of the strategy". An assignment of responsibilities between the relevant national and/or regional bodies are centrally regulated by legal acts: https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/legislative-drafting</p> <p>The Republic of Estonia Education Act covers all education levels and institutions: https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/524042014002/consolidate/current.</p> <p>4. National monitoring system. The implementation and performance of the Education Strategy is reported within the framework of the annual performance areas report by programmes and through needs-based assessments and evaluations. The overall implementation of the strategy shall be evaluated at least once at least three years before the end of the strategy period. The implementation and reporting of the strategy is supported by a broad steering committee. The committee advises the Minister, supports the consideration of cross-cutting links and impacts in the implementation of the strategy, analyzes performance reports and evaluates progress towards the objectives of the strategy. The Steering Committee shall make recommendations for the initiation, modification and termination of programmes on the basis of performance reports.</p> <p>5. Different ongoing measures of the Adult education programme, including the training courses for adults (free of charge). Job-related courses are offered through the national offer of in-service training. These courses are primarily aimed at</p>

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							<p>adults with lower levels of education and competitiveness. https://www.hm.ee/et/tegevused/taiskasvanuharidus/tasutakursused</p> <p>The regional co-operation is also being developed to return low-skilled adults without secondary and vocational education to formal education.</p> <p>6. Education Strategy 2021-2035. The ESF funded programme ÕKPAT (https://www.innove.ee/opetaja-ja-koolijuhia-reng/okpat/), TALIS (Teaching and learning international survey), ITEL (Innovative Teaching for Effective Learning). In the Education and Youth Program 2021-2024 there are actions (measure 2., activity 2.1) planned and resources allocated to support teachers, trainers and academic staff as regards appropriate learning methods. Link to programme document: https://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/haridus_ja_noorteprogramm_2021_2024.pdf</p> <p>7. Education Strategy 2021-2035 and the State Budget Strategy programmes include measures to promote mobility of learners and staff, transnational collaboration of education and training providers. In the Education and Youth Program 2021-2024 there are actions (measure 1., activity 1.5 Promoting the international competitiveness of education) planned and resources allocated to support mobility and transnational collaboration of education and training providers. The activities contribute to the internationalization of education, incl. international education marketing, development of international co-operation in vocational education and higher education. There are activities offering scholarship programs to facilitate learning mobility and organizing the assessment of foreign educational qualifications; provision of information and support services for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications. https://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/haridus_ja_noorteprogramm_2021_2024.pdf</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
4.4 National or regional strategic policy framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction	ERDF and ESF	iii) Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services h) Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability;	YES	A national or regional strategic policy framework or legislative framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction is in place that includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence-based diagnosis of poverty and social exclusion including child poverty, access to early childhood education and care of good quality, homelessness, spatial and educational segregation, limited access to essential services and infrastructure, and the specific needs of vulnerable people of all ages. 2. Measures to prevent and combat segregation in all fields, including social protection, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services for vulnerable people, including migrants and refugees 3. Measures for the shift from institutional to community-based care 4. Arrangements for ensuring that its design, implementation, monitoring and review is conducted in close 	1. YES 2. YES 3. YES 4. YES	Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/eesmargid_ja_tegevused/welfare_development_plan_2016-2023.pdf) Labor Market Program 2020-2023 (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_8_toturuprogramm.pdf) Social Security Program 2020-2023 (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_5_sotsiaalkindlustuse_programm.pdf) Welfare Program 2020-2023 (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_ho	The strategic framework is described in the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and accordingly three programs have been prepared – Labor Market Program 2020-2023, Social Security Program 2020-2023, Welfare Program 2020-2023, Children and Families Program 2020-2023. (https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/riigieelarve-ja-majandus/riigi-eelarvestrateegia). 1. Evidence-based diagnosis of poverty and social exclusion are covered with the following – Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023, Labor Market Program 2020-2023, Social Security Program 2020-2023, Welfare Program 2020-2023, Children and Families Program 2020-2023. 2. Measures to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion are brought out in the Labor Market Program 2020-2023, the Social Security Program 2020-2023 and the Welfare Program 2020-2023. In order to reduce barriers to entry into employment will be raised awareness among employers and reduced prejudices towards different target groups (eg older people, non-native speakers of Estonian, people with reduced working ability). Employers' skills for diversity management and for equal treatment in the organisation are enhanced. To encourage working of retirees labour market services will be provided for them. 3. One of the aims of the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 is to provide clients who receive special care with services that support living at home and in community. Welfare Program 2020-2023 has a target that is described by the ratio of assistance services to 24-hour institutional care services. Target for 2023 is 4,6 and in 2018 baseline was 2,1. 4. The Steering Committee of the Welfare Development Plan includes representatives of various social partners (https://www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023). Implementation report will be provided every year in order to have an overview about the achievements of Welfare

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Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including social partners and relevant civil society organisations		olekandeprogramm 2020 2023.pdf Children and Families Program 2020-2023 https://www.smm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_7_laste_ja_perede_programm_2020_2023.pdf	Development Plan. The report will be presented to Steering Committee.
4.6 Strategic policy framework for health and long-term care.	ESF:	k) Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services	YES	A national or regional strategic policy framework for health is in place that contains: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping of health and long-term care needs, including in terms of medical and care staff, to ensure sustainable and coordinated measures 2. Measures to ensure the efficiency, sustainability, accessibility to health and long-term care services, including a specific focus on individuals excluded from the health and long-term care systems 3. Measures to promote community and family-based services through de-institutionalisation, including prevention and primary care, 	1. YES 2. YES 3. YES	Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 https://www.smm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/eesmargid_ja_tegevused/welfare_development_plan_2016-2023.pdf Public Health Development Plan 2020-2030 https://www.smm.ee/et/rahvastiku-tervise-arengukava-2020-2030	There are two national strategic policy frameworks in place: Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and Public Health Development Plan 2020-2030. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and long-term care needs with appropriate policy measures are discussed in Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and Public Health Development Plan 2020-2030. In the context of decreasing and aging population, the health sector is facing a shortage of health professionals and other professionals. The training capacity must be increased primarily in the field of nursing. In the long run, insufficient training capacity of pharmacists and doctors and aging medical staff are also a problem. A serious problem is the shortage of family doctors, especially in rural and sparsely populated areas. In view of the aging population, the need for long-term care is increasing. 2. Measures to ensure health and long-term care services are elaborated in the following documents – Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and Welfare program 2020-2023. In order to reduce and prevent long-term care burdens, to enable family members with care burdens to work and participate in society, to provide social guarantees and to support the coping of long-

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Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				home-care and community-based services.		Welfare programm 2020-2023 (https://www.sme.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_holekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf)	<p>term dependent households, realistic interventions with sustainable funding, in particular in the field of social, health and work and their interaction. The development and delivery of social services to reduce the burden of care, including social services based on innovative technological solutions, will also continue. Priority will be given to the development of solutions implemented in cooperation between several local authorities. The policy instrument will redesign the structure of special care services, make the use and organisation of services more flexible, reorganise special care infrastructure and improve the quality and availability of services.</p> <p>3. Measures promoting community based services are covered with Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and Welfare program 2020-2023. The purpose of the policy instrument is to provide services that support clients living in a more homelike environment and opportunities for community living to receive special care services. The service system will be improved and queues for community-based services will be improved to ensure the availability and accessibility of existing special care services. Funding for current special care services will be made activity-based and accessible to users. Large (more than 30 places) 24-hour care facilities will be reorganised and housing for people living in the community will be acquired, resulting in a reduction in the number of 24-hour specialised care facilities provided in large units and an increase in community-based facilities.</p>

4.2. Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	YES	<p>Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with EU procurement legislation. This requirement includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the EU thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Article 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU. 2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information; 3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU. 4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with Article 83(3) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99 (3) of Directive 2014/25/EU. 5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES 2. a. YES 2. b. YES 	<p>Public Procurement Register (https://riigihanked.riik.ee)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All public contracts above national thresholds and their procurement under the Funds in line with EU procurement legislation are published and carried out in the central e-procurement portal - Public Procurement Register (https://riigihanked.riik.ee), administered by the Ministry of Finance - in line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1986 of 11 November 2015. According to Procurement Act Ministry of Finance is responsible for monitoring, reporting, consulting according to Article 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU. Monitoring and reporting is based on the data retrieved from the central Procurement Register. 2. a. Names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value are published at Public Procurement Register in the form of a Contract Award Notice in line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1986 of 11 November 2015. 2. b. Information on final price after completion is Buyer's obligation to publish in Public Procurement Register after completing the contract. Information on participation of SMEs as direct bidders is published in a Contract Award Notice by the system - 100% e-procurements are carried out in the central Procurement Register. 3. Ministry of Finance in responsible authority for supervision (monitoring) and analysis. The task of supervision is set out in Public Procurement Act. There are 4 people responsible for monitoring and one for general public procurement data analysis. 4. Supervision reports and yearly summaries of supervision are available online at the web page of the ministry of finance (https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/jarelevalve). Yearly published public procurement statistical data and data analysis is also available online at the web page of the ministry of finance (https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulik-teave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted). 5. There is an informal agreement with Competition Authority about information exchange. In public procurement act there is also provision that if circumstances, learned during supervision may give rise to a suspicion of an offence that does not amount to a misdemeanour provided for in §§ 213-215 of PPA or it has the characteristics of a possible corruption case, the Ministry of Finance informs an

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.			investigative body or the Prosecutor's Office of the circumstances known to the Ministry of Finance. Competition Authority is also an investigative body in that meaning.
Tools and capacity for effective application of State aid rules	YES	<p>Managing authorities have the tools and capacity to verify compliance with State aid rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For undertakings in difficulty and undertakings under a recovery requirement. 2. Through access to expert advice and guidance on State aid matters, provided by State aid experts of local or national bodies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YES 2. YES 	<p>Declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN)</p> <p>Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty (https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/rescue_restructuring_communication_en.pdf)</p> <p>Estonian Ministry of</p>	<p>1. According to the Estonian government's 21.08.2014 regulation No 133 "Requirements and conditions for application and proceedings of applications for 2014-2020 structural assistance for establishment of regulation on conditions for provision of support" § 3 subsection 2 clause 3 requires that applicants, pursuant to the European Union law, cannot be undertakings in difficulty if they are beneficiaries of state aid.</p> <p>Implementing entities follow definition for the undertakings in difficulty brought out in European Commissions' regulation "Declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty" and notification in 2014 "Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty". Based on the definition and using IT solutions, implementing entities can control applicants tax-arrears using Tax and Customs Board (https://www.emta.ee/eng) database and e-Business Register (https://www.rik.ee/en/e-business-register). Implementing entities have also access to the applicants fiscal year report through the e-Business Register and all implementing entities have compiled control questionnaires to verify that applicants are not undertakings in difficulty.</p> <p>Aid grantors (Implementing authorities, Implementing bodies) can verify that the applicant is not subject to the outstanding recovery, order following a previous Commission decision, declaring an aid granted by the Member State illegal and incompatible with the internal market (i.e. undertaking under a recovery requirement) from the Estonian State aid and de minimis aid register. In the register such undertaking is marked by the Ministry of Finance (coordinating body for State aid matters) as "Aid not recovered".</p> <p>2. Ministry of Finance (MoF) as a coordinating body on State aid matters has expertise on State aid rules. MoF gives advice and guidance to all aid grantors.</p> <p>National rules of procedure for state aid are set out in Chapter 6 of the Competition Act. In accordance with the § 49² of the Competition Act, a register of State aid and de minimis aid has been established, it is operational since 2009. The register covers all de minimis and State aid in Estonia except state aid given in the field of agriculture and fishery. Grantors of State aid use registry to control compliance with the de minimis rules. Ministry of Finance is responsible for the State aid and de minimis aid reporting tasks that are done through the registry. Access to the register is granted</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				Finance State Aid information (https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/riigiabi)	to State aid and de minimis aid grantors who have an agreement with the Ministry of Finance on the submission of State and de minimis aid data to the register. Queries about aid and disbursements can be made through a publicly accessible website: https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/riigiabi . State aid information, including references to European Commission guidance materials, is available on Ministry of Finance website: https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/riigiabi . The website also contains Ministry of Finance’s State Aid Manual to support grantors in state aid analysis. A State aid network has been set up and it includes around 90 persons. The purpose of this network is to quickly share state aid information, experiences and also exchange views. Communication between members of the network is via e-mail. Each State aid grantor has at least one employee who has in-depth knowledge of State aid regulation.
Effective application and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	YES	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter. 2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee on the cases regarding non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter. 	1. YES 2. YES	United Nations, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties – Estonia (https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2fCORE%2fEST%2f2015&Lang=en) Estonian Constitution (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/52105201)	1. In Estonia, a mechanism to ensure compliance with the human rights, including EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, are in place through national law and international treaties. Estonia has a monist legal system and the provisions of international instruments become binding in the domestic legal order upon ratification. When laws or other legislation of Estonia are in conflict with an international treaty ratified by the Riigikogu, provisions of the international treaty apply (United Nations, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties - Estonia, 2016). Human rights are protected under the Constitution and specific legislation in certain areas. All public authorities (legislative, executive or judicial) are obliged to respect human rights (Section 14 of the Constitution). The concepts used in Constitution are general and open enabling implementation – laws and regulations implement human rights. Laws that are related to human rights are subject to more attention and scrutiny – they can be passed and amended only by a majority of the members of the Riigikogu. Laws are promulgated by the President and the President can, under the circumstances, apply to the Supreme Court for a declaration of unconstitutionality in respect of the law. Regulations are adopted by the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government ministers. All cases of regulations must be provided for in a law. The Chancellor of Justice is a public official who scrutinises legislative instruments of the legislative and executive branch of government and of local authorities for conformity with the Constitution and the laws, and who is independent in discharging his or her duties. The main constitutional duty of the Chancellor of Justice is to ensure that laws and regulations would be constitutional and in compliance with

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				<p>5001/consolide/current)</p> <p>Gender Equality Act (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013038/consolide)</p> <p>Equal Treatment Act (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013066/consolide)</p> <p>Chancellor of Justice https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/en)</p> <p>Ombudsman for children http://lasteombudsman.ee/en/welcome</p>	<p>other laws. The Chancellor of Justice considers proposals made to him or her concerning the amendment of laws, the passage of new laws and the work of government agencies, and, if necessary, reports his findings to the Riigikogu. The Chancellor of Justice ensures that authorities and officials performing public duties would not violate people's constitutional rights and freedoms, laws and other legislation of general application, as well as the principles of sound administration; persons held in detention would not be treated in a degrading, cruel or inhumane way.</p> <p>The Chancellor of Justice acts also as ombudsman for children's. The Chancellor of Justice is responsible for the protection and promotion of children's rights. To fulfil the tasks of the Ombudsman for Children, there is the Children's and Youths' Rights Department in the Office of the Chancellor of Justice.</p> <p>The Commissioner of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment shall monitor compliance with the requirements of the Equal Treatment Act and the Gender Equality Act (https://volinik.ee/en/). The Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner has been given a mandate to oversee the implementation of gender equality and equal treatment rights in Estonia. The Commissioner is an independent and impartial expert who acts independently, monitors compliance with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act, and the Equal Treatment Act. The Commissioner accepts applications from persons and provides opinions concerning possible cases of discrimination; advises and assists persons upon filing discrimination complaints, analyses the effect of legal acts on the situation of women and men as well as minorities in society; makes proposals to the Government of the Republic, government agencies, local governments and their agencies for amendments to legislation; advises and informs the Government of the Republic, government agencies and local government agencies on issues relating to the implementation of Gender Equality Act and Equal Treatment Act; takes measures to promote gender equality and equal treatment, also publishes reports on implementation of the principle of gender equality and equal treatment. (United Nations, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties - Estonia, 2016)</p> <p>Other relevant authorities: -The Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (http://www.lichr.ee/home/?lang=en) - Human Rights Centre https://humanrights.ee/en/ - Estonian Institute of Human Rights NGO https://www.humanrightsestonia.ee/en/</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>The principles of the Charter are integrated into the fundamental principles and strategic goals of the “Estonia 2035”. The operational programme, in turn, is linked to the principles of the Charter through strategy Estonia 2035.</p> <p>A list of indicators, which are linked to the strategic goals: Indicators of Estonia2035</p> <p>A number of sectoral partners (https://www.riigikantselei.ee/et/valitsuse-toetamine/strateegia-eeesti-2035/kontakt-ja-osalus) participated in the development of the strategy Estonia 2035, including the Commissioner for Gender Equality (http://www.vordoigusvolinik.ee/?lang=en) and the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People (https://epikoda.ee/en), who are also members of the monitoring committee.</p> <p>All development plans in the field have been or will be linked to the goals and principles of “Estonia 2035” and through them the principles of Charters are taken into account. For the preparation of the sectoral development plan, the line minister shall establish the steering committee, where are representatives and experts from the relevant ministries, also representatives from Government Office and interest groups.</p> <p>2. In the Monitoring Committee umbrella organisations and institutions for the protection of fundamental rights (e.g. Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner) are represented and their task is to bring the consolidated vision of their field and, if necessary, problems to the monitoring committee.</p> <p>The monitoring committee will approve project selection criteria and procedure of the committee.</p> <p>The selection criteria for projects (document, currently being updated) stipulate that criteria shall be used for the selection of projects which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are non-discriminatory and transparent; - take into account the general principles laid down in regulation 2018/0196, Article 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring gender equality and non-discrimination - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - upholds the principle of sustainable development - the Union’s environmental policy shall be guided in accordance with Articles 11 and 191(1) TFEU.

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					<p>For the communication, the monitoring committee has own e-mail and committee members list is available in the structural funds homepage https://www.rtk.ee/seire-ja-seirekomisjonid#seirekomisjoni-koosseis; https://www.rtk.ee/seire-ja-seirekomisjonid#seirekomisjoni-liikmed. All committee members have the opportunity to open discussion by using the email list or by adding the discussion points to the monitoring committee meeting agenda, including if there are any concerns, that despite all procedures in place today, there might be possible case of non-compliance with the Charter.</p> <p>Social partners and umbrella organisations of the current period monitoring committee are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estonian Trade Union Confederation - Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications - Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Council of Estonian Environmental Nongovernmental Organisations - The Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities - Estonian Society for Nature Conservation - Estonian Chamber of Disabled People - The Estonian Academy of Sciences - Estonian Association of SMEs - Rectors' Conference - Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organizations - Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner <p>Depending on the content of the 2021+ operational programme, we are ready to expand the members list.</p> <p>The role of the Equality Competence Center of the Equality Policies Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs is to advise and train intermediate bodies, applicants and recipients on gender mainstreaming, nondiscrimination and ensuring accessibility for people with special needs in the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects (related articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union are 21, 23, 25 and 26). The competence center also advises the intermediate bodies in the preparation and implementation of open application rounds. Introduces the requirements and opportunities for promoting gender equality and ensuring equal treatment at information days for grant applicants. Monitoring the implementation of gender mainstreaming and equal treatment (including accessibility) activities in projects etc. The Equality Competence Center participates in the coordination</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>process and assesses compliance with the principles of gender equality and equal treatment (including accessibility) in the conditions for the provision of support.</p> <p>Besides Chancellor of Justice and Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner’s reports, Human Rights Centre, Human Rights Institute, and The Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, systematically prepare reports on human rights situation in Estonia. Also, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes reports of human rights treaty based bodies at its website (http://vm.ee/en/human_rights), and concluding observations. (United Nations, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties - Estonia, 2016)</p> <p>If a person feels that his or her rights have been violated, he or she must turn to court (usually an administrative court). It is possible to demand the elimination of the infringement or compensation for the damage. A statement of claim is filed with the court of first instance, an appeal with the court of second instance and an appeal in cassation with the court of third or the highest instance. A matter shall be heard in the Supreme Court after all previous court instances have been passed. The filing of an appeal is governed by respective codes of court procedure. Only sworn advocates are allowed to present the case to the Supreme Court to ensure the legal and physical persons the best quality of legal aid. If a person has gone through all the judicial bodies of the Republic of Estonia and the desired results have not been achieved, one can turn to the European Court of Human Rights.</p> <p>(United Nations, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties - Estonia, 2016).</p> <p>Every person has the right and the opportunity to turn to the Chancellor of Justice, the Equality Commissioner or the Labour Dispute Committee in Estonia.</p> <p>A number of relevant partners, who monitor the compliance with the Charter are members of the monitoring committee (e.g Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner; Estonian Chamber of Disabled People etc) and they have right to raise issues at the monitoring committee meetings or open discussion on the monitoring committee email list.</p> <p>The compliance with the EU Charter is guaranteed through strategy Estonia 2035, sectoral development plans, project selections criteria, measure based legislation, etc. Social partners and umbrella organisations are members of the steering and monitoring committees, also involved with the development of the legislation.</p>

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					<p>The 2021+ evaluation plan includes different areas and themes (Charter, equal opportunities, equality and accessibility, regional development, and environment). At least two times is planned to assess the fulfilment of Estonia2035 targets and horizontal principles. In addition, all monitoring committee members have the possibility to comment the evaluation plan and if so recommended and considered relevant specific evaluations will contain CPR Article 9 related questions.</p> <p>All ministries are responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in their area of administration. Ministries also prepare, adopt and implement Government action plans on various human rights related issues – responsible ministries use networks resulting wide participation amongst government and non-government authorities. There are also legal persons in public law, which are founded in the public interest and pursuant to an Act concerning such legal person. A legal person in public law shall not have civil rights or obligations which are contrary to its objective.</p> <p>Development plans and programmes of all ministries must be consistent with the strategy Estonia 2035, where are also link with the principles of the Charter. All documents have relevant indicators which are reported annually in the performance reports.</p> <p>All development plans (and ministries) have the steering committees, who are involved with sectoral policy making.</p>
Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities	YES	<p>A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> YES YES 	<p>Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 (https://www.s.m.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023).</p> <p>Accessibility Council (https://www.riigikantselei.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-rakkeruhm)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms. <p>The indicators we collect on people with disabilities are included in the Welfare Development Plan different programs. For example, in a welfare program (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_hoolekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf), we have an indicator: the proportion of working age disabled persons who receive open care or non-institutional services, which support independent coping at home, and day-and-night institutional care. The Ministry of Social Affairs collects data on service recipients annually from service providers and local governments. The actual level for this indicator for 2018 was 1,9, contrary to prognosis, the ratio has fallen year on year because non-institutional services are not provided to a sufficient extent. With the social security program, we monitor the following indicators: absolute poverty rate among disabled persons and the impact of benefits for disabled people on reducing absolute poverty among disabled persons (aged 18-64). In 2018, the absolute poverty rate among disabled persons was 1.2%. In 2017, the benefits for disabled people reduced the absolute poverty of disabled persons 16.7% (Statistics Estonia).</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling conditions	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
ies (UNCRP D) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				<p>Accessibility Task Force https://www.riigikantselei.ee/et/ligipaasetavus</p> <p>Chancellor of Justice Act https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehitiv</p> <p>Detailed requirements for buildings related to the special needs of persons with disabilities https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/131052018055</p> <p>Requirements set on living space https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/103072015034?leiaKehitiv</p> <p>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 https://www.mk.m.ee/et/wcag-</p>	<p>It is one part of the Statistics Estonia working program to collect statistical information on the situation of disability. Therefore, where it is possible, the collected data from individuals is linked to the disability information and where it is possible (depending on the survey's sample size), the data are published in the Statistics Estonia database https://www.stat.ee/et/avasta-statistikat/metoodika-jakvaliteet/statistikatood/2020/40606. The disability information itself is collected by Social Insurance Board (https://sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/en) who identifies a disability for children, working-age people and people of retirement age. Social Insurance Board has data on the severity, type of disability and the diagnoses underlying the determination of disability.</p> <p>On the other hand, if necessary, Ministry of Social Affairs has conducted also specific surveys (https://www.sm.ee/et/uuringud-jaanaluusid#Sotsiaalvaldkonna%20uuringud%20ja%20anal%C3%BC%C3%BCsid) by focusing on the families who have a disabled child or adults with a disability. Those surveys have been carried out to collect specific information about usage of different services, occurring problems etc.</p> <p>Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the principles of the Convention are mainstreamed into several development plans and strategies (f.e Eesti2035), the most relevant of them being Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023. Problems the target group faces and addressing policy instruments are more or less directly described in all four sub-objectives. However, subobjective nr 3 (https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_3_hoolekandeprogramm_2019_2022_0.pdf) focuses more directly on improving the accessibility and quality of social services, the development of services that include people in society and the protection of fundamental rights. The DP also includes relevant indicators, that are regularly followed-up to monitor the implementation.</p> <p>On 13th of June 2018, the Parliament of Estonia adopted an amendment to the Chancellor of Justice Act (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/103072018014), the aim of which was to designate the institution of the Chancellor of Justice with the tasks of the framework indicated in Article 33 point 2 of the CRPD to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention. The amendment (Article 1 point 10) came into force from the 1st of January 2019. The Chancellor of Justice is an independent official, who reviews the legislation for conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia and the Acts of the Republic of Estonia. Her tasks include also, for example, exercising supervision over the compliance of the legislation with international agreements and resolving discrimination disputes, which arise</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>20-rakendusjuhised</p> <p>Sotsiaalkindlustuse programm</p> <p>https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_5_sotsiaalkindlustuse_programm.pdf</p> <p>Hoolekandeprogramm</p> <p>https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_hoolekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf</p> <p>Soolise võrdõiguslikkuse programm</p> <p>https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_6_soolise_vordoiguslikkuse_programm.pdf</p>	<p>between persons in private law on the basis of the Constitution and other Acts. In the past few years, the Office of the Chancellor of Justice has increased its monitoring of facilities in which persons with disabilities may be deprived of their liberty, in particular special care homes and psychiatric clinics. (https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/et/seisukohad/otsing?sisutuup=seisukoht&vaade=otsing&valitsemisala=117&dokumendist=1). Small additional funds have been allocated from the budget to allow for greater use of experts during its inspections, including psychiatrists.</p> <p>All persons who have reached the statutory age have an equal right to vote and participate or stand in elections. Pursuant to electoral law (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/1045561), all eligible voters must have the possibility to vote in the manner of their choice: either in a polling station, electronically or at home. As a general rule, voters are to vote independently, however voters who want or need assistance in filling out a ballot have the right to assistance from whomever they choose, as long as that person is not a candidate in the particular electoral district. The Riigikogu Election Act also requires that the electronic voting application must provide support to visually impaired persons.</p> <p>Polling stations in Estonia are located in public buildings, which must comply with the requirements of a Regulation of the Minister of Enterprise and Information Technology “Requirements for Structures arising from the Special Needs of Disabled Persons” adopted on the basis of the Building Code. The State Electoral Office provides information on its website for persons with special needs, including information on which polling stations are fully accessible for persons in wheelchairs or with prams.</p> <p>In Estonia, all persons also have the right to vote electronically, which means that they can choose to vote from any location with internet service that they choose. The rules governing electronic voting (§ 483 (5) of the Riigikogu Election Act) also require that the voting application must provide support to visually impaired persons, and this requirement is fulfilled in practice such that visually impaired persons can exercise their right to vote without assistance.</p> <p>In 2019, elections were held in Estonia both to the national parliament Riigikogu and also to the European Parliament.</p> <p>After both elections had been held, the Chancellor of Justice addressed the Constitutional Committee of the Riigikogu, the State Electoral Office and the National</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>Electoral Committee to point out both successful examples as well as shortcomings with regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities during the elections. The Chancellor of Justice made a number of recommendations for improvements in the organisation of elections. In November 2019, the Constitutional Committee of the Riigikogu and the State Electoral Office held discussions on the issue of accessibility and elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/sites/default/files/field_document2/Ligip%C3%A4%C3%A4s%20valimisjaoskondadele.pdf - https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/sites/default/files/field_document2/Valimisjaoskondade%20juurdep%C3%A4%C3%A4setavus.pdf - https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/sites/default/files/field_document2/Juurdep%C3%A4%C3%A4s%20avalikele%20hoonetele.pdf <p>The Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner monitors compliance with the Equal Treatment Act and the Gender Equality Act both in public and private sector. According to the Commissioners' office statistics (https://volinik.ee/voliniku-2019-aasta-tegevuste-ulevaade/), the total number of claims issued to the Commissioner during the period of 2015-2019 was 1450. The proportion of the claims based on disability was 17%. Claimants who filed claims of discrimination based on disability were 60% female, 20% male, 20% were filed by companies, 3rd sector or unknown. Data on the age of claimants is not collected. The sector in which the complaints were filed were 58% unknown, 26% public sector, 13% private sector, 3% 3rd sector. Barriers indentified in 2017-2019 considered 26% in employment, 13% education, 10% access to products and services, 5% social aid, social services and healthcare, 46% unknown, outside Commissioner's competence. In 2016: 27% access to products and services, 24% employment, 18% social aid, social services and healthcare, 16% education, 16% unknown, outside Commissioner's competence. The Commissioner cannot impose sanctions, but give opinions.</p> <p>The Chancellor of Justice Office statistics show, that the number of claims has been increasing (being 1484 in 2016 and 1652 in 2018). However, as the person does not always declare his or her disability, it is not possible to give exact numbers on the claimants. Still, the claims concerning the rights of persons with disabilities has had a steady yearly increase, being 37 in 2016 and 88 in 2019 (as of September 2019). There have been no high court decisions found making reference to the CRPD.</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling conditions	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>2. According to the regulation “Perioodi 2014–2020 struktuuritoetuse taotlemise ja taotluste menetlemise nõuded ja tingimused toetuse andmise tingimuste määruse kehtestamiseks” (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/126082014006#para4) § 4 and 40, the application shall describe which activities are linked to the goals and principles of strategy Estonia 2035, including to accessibility requirements. The regulation is currently being updated.</p> <p>Ministry of Social Affairs is the national coordinator and a promoter of accessibility across sectors. The Ministry has been actively involved in promoting and coordinating accessibility through supporting the work of the Accessibility Council, that brings together different stakeholders from relevant ministries, private sector representatives and representative organisations of disabled persons. Ministry of Social Affairs is also coordinating the transposition of the Accessibility Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services). The Accessibility Directive focuses on increasing the opportunities for people with disabilities to hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, although it also benefits persons who experience functional limitations. According to Directive, the laws, regulations and administrative provisions must be transposed into national law (adopted and published) by 28 June 2022 at the latest.</p> <p>Estonian government recently launched a task force to develop a comprehensive accessibility policy. The Accessibility task force bringing together all relevant stakeholders from the government, NGOs and private sector had its first meeting in November 2019 and its mandate is for two years, resulting in improved cooperation between sectors and specific actions to improve accessibility. In the first year the task force has carried out comprehensive discussions about accessibility in six areas: public transport, buildings, roads, audiovisual media, tourism and e-services. Based on the discussions the task force presented mid term report to the government in October 2020 (https://www.riigikantselei.ee/sites/default/files/news-related-files/ligipaasetavuse_rakkeruhma_vahearuanne_09_2020.pdf). In the second year the task force will continue to hold discussions on policy development in order to reach agreements with different ministries and other stakeholders that will eventually lead to final policy proposals for the government. The aim is to propose policy measures that will lead to a wider policy reform targeted at increasing accessibility of the society.</p> <p>The members of task force: https://www.riigikantselei.ee/et/ligipaasetavus.</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>The Equality Competence Centre (https://www.sm.ee/et/vordne-kohtlemine-0), as an advisory and training unit, provides advice to managing authorities and implementing agencies, how to take account of accessibility requirements and aspects of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in programmes/projects and assesses compliance with these requirements in measure based legislation.</p> <p>In 2018, a regulation of the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology came into force that provides detailed requirements for buildings related to the special needs of persons with disabilities. The regulation applies first and foremost to the buildings or parts of buildings where public services are provided and to public roads in urban areas and publicly accessible private roads. Starting from 1st of January 2019, Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority performs state supervision over the application of this regulation.</p> <p>In 2018, also another regulation of the Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology came into force that complemented the earlier regulation on "Requirements set on living space". The new regulations' goal is to improve the accessibility of living space and it requires to have an elevator in the houses that have at least four or more floors. This requirement will be applied to building projects implemented from the 1st of August 2019.</p> <p>In 2015 a support structure (The Equality Competence Centre) was created to provide additional support for the policy-makers and -implementers in gender mainstreaming and to ensure non-discrimination (incl. accessibility) in the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ESI Funds (ESF, ERDF, CF) programmes and projects. The centre has published a variety of information materials, including thematic fact sheets and guidelines and organised trainings for implementing agencies, intermediate bodies and applicants of the funds to raise the awareness about the accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.</p> <p>To promote accessibility of public services to people with intellectual disability, a project supported by the Norway Grants 2014-2021 through Active Citizens Fund in Estonia was launched. The project will enhance the use of simple language, for example libraries, local governments, sports facilities etc.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Affairs made an analysis on public transport stops' accessibility all over Estonia. The results will give an overview of a selection of most important junctions and related public transport stops together with cost calculations of needed adjustments in early 2020.</p> <p>Train and tramway stops.</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling conditions	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>Of all transportation stops, train and tramway stops (89 units) have the best accessibility. Those stops have the most different accessibility features provided (physical access, tactile surfaces, contrasting colours, real time information on arrivals etc). The current statement is backed up by the average score value which is 80%. If we compare with bus stops (401 units), average score value is 59%. This is due to relatively recent reconstruction of train and tramway stops, what has enabled taking into account modern accessibility requirements.</p> <p>Bus stops. Bus stops are generally in good condition, while there are regional differences, where the best solutions and conditions are in bigger towns – Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu. Regions have developed own „style“ along with graphics, functionality and architectural solutions. We hereby recommend the municipalities to start using elaborated best practices instead. In small town, villages and other rural areas the overall condition of stops is worse compared to towns – there are no shelters, proper lighting, waiting platforms, the surfaces are unsuitable for use with mobility devices.</p> <p>Station buildings. Accessibility was evaluated in case of 47 different buildings, of which bus terminals were 21, train stations 9, harbours 11 and airports 6. Lowest score gained the transport infrastructure related buildings, that is bus and train stations and harbours (average score 51-56%). Slightly better was the outcome for the airports (58%), what is possible to explain with the international regulations applied there, but even that situation could be much better. For instance Tallinn Airport is physically well accessible, but not that adapted what concerns other types of disability, total score was 50%.</p> <p>Pedestrian crossings. Measures needing more attention from the municipalities would be tactile marking of pedestrian crossings, easy leading to the crossing and the use of sound signals and timer solutions at crossings. Of station buildings mapped (47 buildings) there was no parking for people with disabilities in case of 29 buildings, that is 61%, which is a poor result. Parking for people with disabilities should be provided at each station building, harbour etc.</p> <p>From 2018-2022 the Ministry of Social Affairs is conducting a pilot project on social transportation. The aim of the project to test new service delivery models of social</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling conditions	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>transportation and find more information on who is a social transport customer and what kind of financing model should be used for a more efficient policy on the matter. The pilot project is carried out in 5 counties, in which four county public transport operators work in close cooperation with local governments to design and provide social transportation service in their region. The pilot project is financed from European Social Fund and partners' own financing.</p> <p>To increase the accessibility of help to persons with disability, the Emergency Response Centre has developed a SMS-112 service. This enables people with hearing or speech disability to send a free SMS if they need rescue workers, an ambulance or police. In order to use the service, it is necessary to create a user account. The communication and awareness raising of such possibility among the target groups has been organised in cooperation with representative NGO-s.</p> <p>Special efforts have been made to ensure accessibility when launching and carrying out the awareness raising activities, therefore campaigns have been made accessible to people with visual and hearing disabilities. The preparation of campaigns has been in close cooperation with the representative organisations in order to have persons with disabilities involved in the preparation phase. The campaigns have successfully involved disabled people also as spokespersons. Having real people as spokespersons has helped the public to relate with the messages of the campaigns and has increased their success. Consultation and cooperation with the relevant representative organisations has also taken place when preparing and carrying out thematic analysis or studies.</p> <p>Every person, who has problems with accessibility, has the right and opportunity to connect with the Commissioner for Gender Equality and Equal Treatment (if necessary, anonymously). The website is customised for visually impaired people and information is available in five languages. Every person has also the right to send the application to the Chancellor of Justice, through the webpage, by e-mail, by calling etc. The website is customised for visually impaired people and information is available in three languages.</p> <p>Regarding the structural funds, the contact point for discussion is the monitoring committee. There are relevant umbrella organisations in the committee, and if necessary, the member state will extend the list of partners. In the monitoring committee meeting members may point out possible concerns in case there are any which require further attention.</p>

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Enabling conditions	Fulfillment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfillment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>Accessibility is also among the base principles of the strategy “Estonia 2035” and addressed in the strategic goals – “The living environment is safe, and when planning public space, preference is given to solutions that promote safe and secure and health-promoting behaviours that ensure accessibility”. These goals function as “horizontal principles” in the sense of article 9 and are therefore covered throughout the implementation process.</p> <p>The member state (Ministry of Finance) and managing authority (State Shared Service Centre) also use monitoring data and may initiate discussion on the subject in the monitoring committee meeting if seen necessary.</p>

5. PROGRAMME AUTHORITIES [LISATAKSE AVALIKU KONSULTATSIOONI AJAKS]**Table 161: Programme authorities**

Programme authorities	Name of the institution [500]	Contact name [200]	E-mail [200]
Managing authority			
Audit authority			
Body which receives payments from the Commission			
Where applicable, body or, bodies which receive payments from the Commission in case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR			
Accounting function in case this function is entrusted to a body other than the managing authority			

Table 162: The portion of the percentages set out in point (b) of Article 36(5) CPR that would be reimbursed to the bodies which receive payments from the Commission in case of technical assistance pursuant to Article 36(5) CPR (in percentage points)

Body 1	p.p.
Body 2*	p.p.

6. PARTNERSHIP [LISATAKSE AVALIKU KONSULTATSIOONI AJAKS]

10 000 characters

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY [TEKST 18.06 SEISUGA]

Text field [4 500]

Objective of communication:

The 2021-2027 communication of structural funds is to ensure target group awareness of EU structural support through comprehensive, open and relevant communication and the positive impact of EU funds. Increased awareness of the purpose, results and impact of EU structural support on Estonian development will be achieved by communicating to the target groups the structural support goals, including planning, the cohesion policy in general, as well as operational programme areas, and by ensuring visibility of supported projects and advertising the changes the support has helped effect in Estonia.

Sub-objectives supporting the goal:

- To increase the recognition of the importance of EU contribution to Estonia's economic growth and achieving digital and green revolution, focusing also on transport and digital networks, supporting quality employment, education, healthcare, locally led development and sustainable urban development;
- To improve the quality and interest of grant applications through clear and simple communication procedures and rules and ensure that information is available to all interested parties in a clear plain language;
- To ensure the visibility of EU supported projects (e.g ads, emblems, events, media relations, webpage etc.)
- To improve transparency of distribution of grants.

Target groups and stakeholders:

- General public:
 - o Native speakers;
 - o Russian speakers.
- Media
- Applicants and potential applicants
- Beneficiaries:
 - o direct beneficiaries;
 - o indirect beneficiaries (i.e communities, regions).
- Stakeholders:
 - o roof organizations (inc NGO-s, Unions etc);
 - o policy makers;
 - o public sector.

Main channels:

Media e.g:

- national and local newspapers;
- online portals;
- TV and radio.

Website e.g:

- reviews of calls for proposals;
- success stories on Estonian map;
- helpful material for potential beneficiary and tips how to put together an eligible project;
- EU branding (online plaque/billboard generator, FAQ about logo use etc.).

Social media (managing authority, co-operation with ministries and implementing agencies) e.g:

Facebook e.g:

- the information about open calls and info days;
- a selection of success stories;
- success stories video content (at least 5 videos per year).

Instagram /Messenger e.g:

- ads;
- games;
- stories.

<p>Activities aiming at less aware target groups: Based on yearly national public awareness survey of European funds the less aware target groups of positive impact of the funds are young people and Russian-speaking population. Teenagers and young adults <u>e.g:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engagement via social media (yearly validation of the most important social networks for teenagers and young adults); - free student booklet (i.e games, crosswords, graphics). <p>Russian-speaking population e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PR releases and articles about the achievements in media; - Information about European funding are duplicated also in Russian if needed. <p>Measuring The following sources will be used to measure goal achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - yearly surveys on structural support awareness; - media coverage analysis (monitoring of structural support visibility and dynamics); - regular monitoring on applicant's satisfaction - website traffic monitoring (visits); - social media monitoring (number of engagements). <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - general awareness of the European funding from 73% to 80%; - awareness of EU-co-funded regional projects from 42% to 45%; - awareness of young persons (18-24) from 52% to 55%; and Russian-speaking population from 51% to 55%; - positive impact of cohesion policy Funds on Estonian development – keep the positive rating in the same level (80% of responses). <p>Communication manager of the programme is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication activities for general public in traditional and social media channels (e.g TV-shows, special newspapers, radio interviews, articles, events, seminars etc.); - supporting and advising IA-s on communication activities; - keep MA website up to date for providing helpful information materials for the media, policy makers, beneficiaries and applicants; - managing Facebook page called Eurotoetus to promote open calls and the results of calls and projects; - wide promotion and distribution of publication of new calls; - participating in the national communication network and in the EU communication initiatives; - strengthening communication-related cooperation with local governments in order to partner with local applicants and find ways to reach them more efficiently.
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8. USE OF UNIT COSTS, LUMP SUMS, FLAT RATES AND FINANCING NOT LINKED TO COSTS *[LISATAKSE AVALIKU KONSULTATSIIONI AJAKS]*

Table 163: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	YES	NO
From the adoption programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2)		
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ANNEX 3: LIST OF PLANNED OPERATIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WITH A TIMETABLE

[lisatakse avaliku konsultatsiooni ajaks]

Text field [2 000]

Annex 4: TERRITORIAL JUST TRANSITION PLAN [KOGU TEKST SEISUGA 20.04]

1. OUTLINE OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE MOST NEGATIVELY AFFECTED TERRITORIES WITHIN THE MEMBER STATE

1.1 Outline of the expected transition process towards the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050

Text field [12000]

Current strategic framework

Estonia joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994, a few years after regaining its independence, and ratified the **Paris Agreement** in 2016 ([link](#)). In 2019 Estonia also committed to the common goal of reaching a **climate-neutral Europe by 2050**, and in 2020 – to the European Commission's 2030 Climate Target Plan.

The main principles of Estonia's climate policy are set in the “**General Principles of Climate Policy until 2050**”, adopted by the Estonian Parliament in 2017 ([link](#)). The document sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by ca 80 percent by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, and outlines both general and sectorial policy guidelines for reaching that goal. In the same year, the Estonian Government also adopted the “**Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030**” ([link](#)), which provides a roadmap for mitigating the risks posed by climate change, as well as the “**National Development Plan for the Energy Sector until 2030**”, or ND PES ([link](#)).

In December 2019, in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2012/2018 Estonia communicated to the European Commission its “**National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2030)**” ([link](#)), that complements the ND PES and sets the following main objectives:

- Reducing GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 (-64% as of 2019);
- Achievement of a 13% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels in the sectors falling under the scope of the Effort Sharing Regulation (transport, small-scale power, agriculture, non-ETS industry and waste);
- The share of renewable energy in total final consumption must be at least 42% by 2030;
- Final energy consumption must remain at the level of 32-33 TWh;
- Reduction of primary energy consumption by 14% (compared to the peak of recent years);
- Security of supply must be maintained.

Hence, Estonia's NECP 2030 is in line with the European Union's 2030 target for energy and climate as set out to in Article 2(11) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

Updated commitments

Although the strategies and plans outlined above contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments under Paris agreement, reaching climate neutrality in Europe by 2050 and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, a number of revisions are currently in progress that take into account increased climate ambition.

In 2019 the Government Office of the Republic of Estonia commissioned the Tallinn branch of the Stockholm Environment Institute to analyse the steps the country must take over the next three decades to reach climate neutrality. The resulting report, entitled “**Reaching climate neutrality in Estonia**” ([link](#)) provides an analysis of sector-specific issues that Estonia must address, offers an outline of related measures and underscores the significant policy and business opportunities inherent in the pursuit of climate neutrality. The report concludes that reaching climate neutrality is “possible and likely profitable”. The report also establishes a maximum level of GHG emissions that

would allow Estonia to reach climate neutrality: 2,25 million ton per year (in 2019 Estonia's emissions stood at 14,7 mln t CO_{2eq}).

The report informed the development of Estonia's long-term development strategy "**Eesti 2035**", expected to be adopted by the Estonian Parliament in the first half of 2021. The strategy states explicitly Estonia's ambition to reach climate neutrality by year 2050 and also mentions the need for special attention towards regions that will be most affected by the transition ([link](#), pp 15, 25).

The new government of Estonia, sworn in on the 26th of January 2021, has made a **commitment** to quit additional governmental investments into fossil projects and instead focus on renewables. The government has also set year 2035 as the deadline for Estonia to exit oil shale electricity production and year 2040 – to phase out oil shale in the energy sector completely. In order to solidify its intentions, the government agreed on an "Action plan for reaching climate neutrality by 2050", which will include:

- initializing the update of NDPES by November 2021, taking into account the green transition, climate neutrality and digitalization;
- initialising the revision of the "National plan for the use of oil shale in the period 2016-2030" by November 2022;
- submitting a progress report of Estonia's NECP 2030 by March 2023 and an updated version of the NECP 2030 by June 2023, pursuant to Articles 7 and 14 of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The "General Principles of Climate Policy until 2050" are currently also being revised and the draft of the amending act is scheduled to be ready by the end of 2021.

Transition process towards a climate-neutral economy

Estonia is well on its way towards a climate-neutral economy. In 2019, the share of renewable energy in the gross final energy consumption reached 31,9%, well exceeding the target for 2020 (25%). In 2020, the share of oil shale electricity consumption dropped to 31,5% (~80% in 2018), while renewable electricity consumption had increased to 26%. According to the latest GHG inventory, in 2019, Estonian greenhouse gas emissions were down by 64% from 1990 levels; factoring in emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), results in a net emission reduction of 63%.

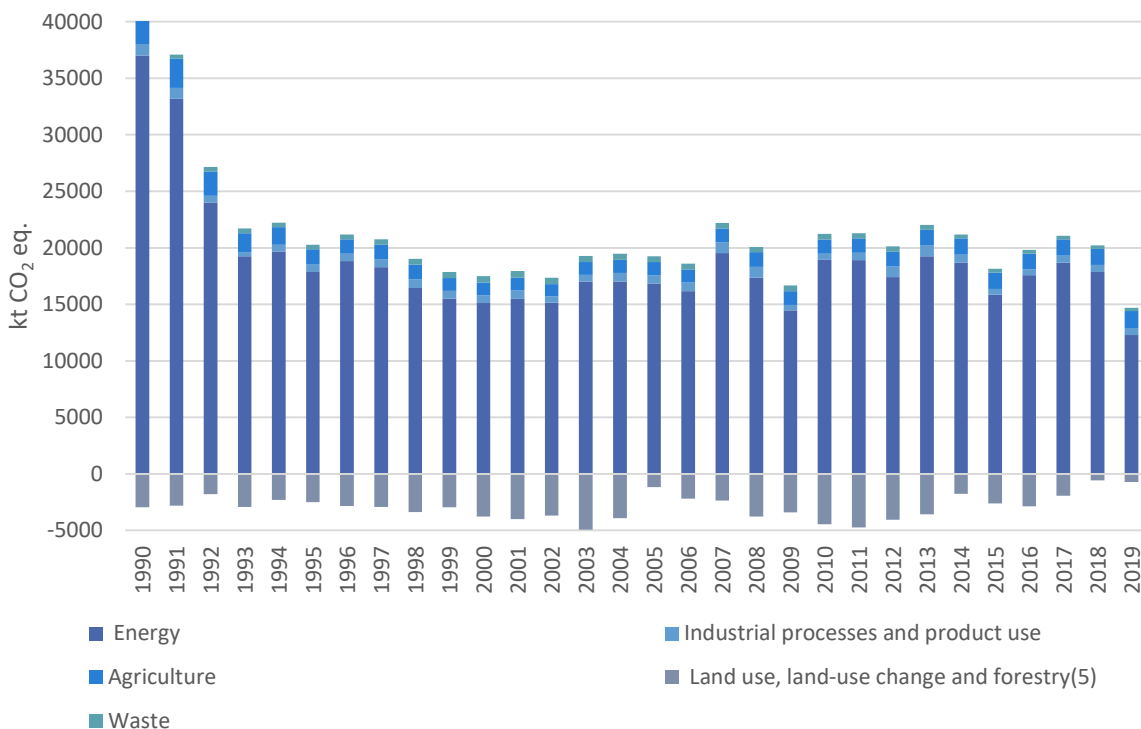


Figure 1: Greenhouse gas emissions trends by sector, kt CO₂ eq

The majority of Estonia’s GHG emissions are produced by the energy industries sector – 68% and 56% of total GHG emissions in 2018 and 2019 respectively. On the one hand, given its large proportion in the overall emissions, the transformation of this sector has most influence on Estonia’s progress towards climate neutrality; on the other hand, from a 12% drop just over the recent years, we can see that this sector is already undergoing major transformation.

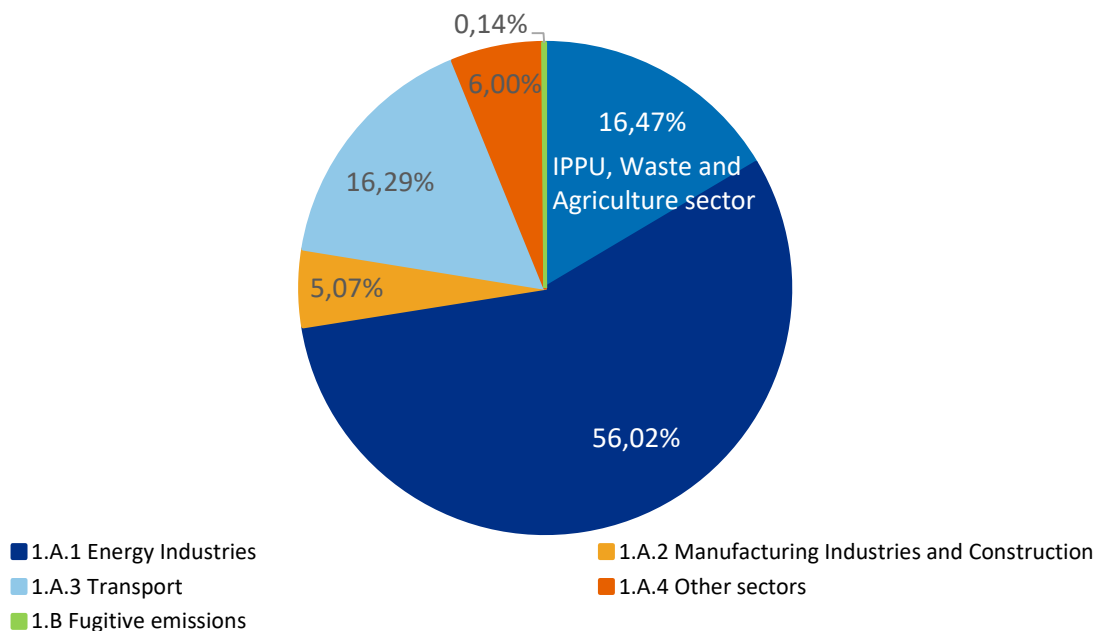


Figure 2: Emissions from the energy sector compared to the total emissions in 2019, %

A substantial amount of energy-related emissions are caused by an extensive consumption of fossil fuels for power and heat production. In 2019, the supply of primary energy was 218.9 PJ, of which oil shale comprised 65% and wood and municipal waste together – 26.4%. However, in the recent years the rate of phase out of oil shale electricity has been dramatic: if in 2018, electricity production in Estonia totalled 10.58 TWh, of which electricity from local non-renewables comprised 8.9 TWh (so

84%), then by 2020 the share of local non-renewables in Estonia's electricity mix stood at 2.5 TWh, which indicates more than a tripple decrease over three years.

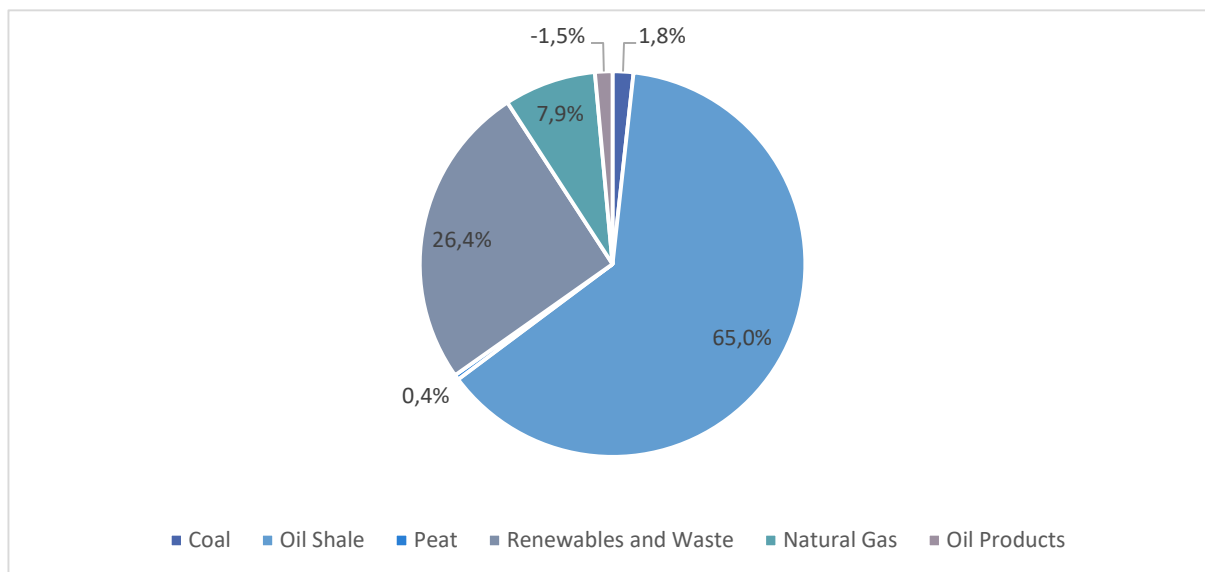


Figure 3: Structure of primary energy supply in Estonia in 2019, %

This progress is both the result of the price of EU ETS allowances and national activities. The steep rise in the price of EU ETS emission allowances in the recent years renders oil shale electricity not cost effective enough to compete in the Nordic energy market. In addition, the equipment used for processing oil shale is gradually reaching the end of its useful lifespan, which further reduces the competitiveness of electricity produced from oil shale.

Going forward, Estonia's transition to a climate-neutral energy system will be based on four pillars:

1. Phasing out oil shale based power production. According to the "2020 Report on Security of Supply of Estonia's Electrical System" ([link](#), pp. 84-87), as of 2020, the installed net capacity of Estonian power plants stands at 3,041 MW, incl. 1,949 MW of supply, based on oil shale. Of the facilities operating on oil shale, a total of 1,291 MW will be decommissioned in the period 2021-2024 (due to their age) and an additional 386 MW is planned to be decommissioned by 2031. After 2031, the only power plant operating on oil shale will be the Auvere power plant (net capacity 272 MW, production capacity 250 MW), which can also use biomass as fuel (up to 50%).

2. Increasing renewable energy production. As of 2021 there is in total 175 MW of biomass capacity, 329 MW of onshore wind capacity and 164 MW of solar capacity in Estonia. Over the next three years renewable electricity reverse auctions will be held to bring 1115 GWh more renewable electricity to the market. By 2030 it is planned to install 2600 MW of wind and 415 MW of solar capacities. Biomass based capacity will not change remarkably. New technologies such as fuel cells, ultracapacitors, electrification, automatisisation and virtual solutions, charging stations and battery storage along with energy efficiency measures will be integrated into the present energy management system in order to deliver lower carbon solutions.

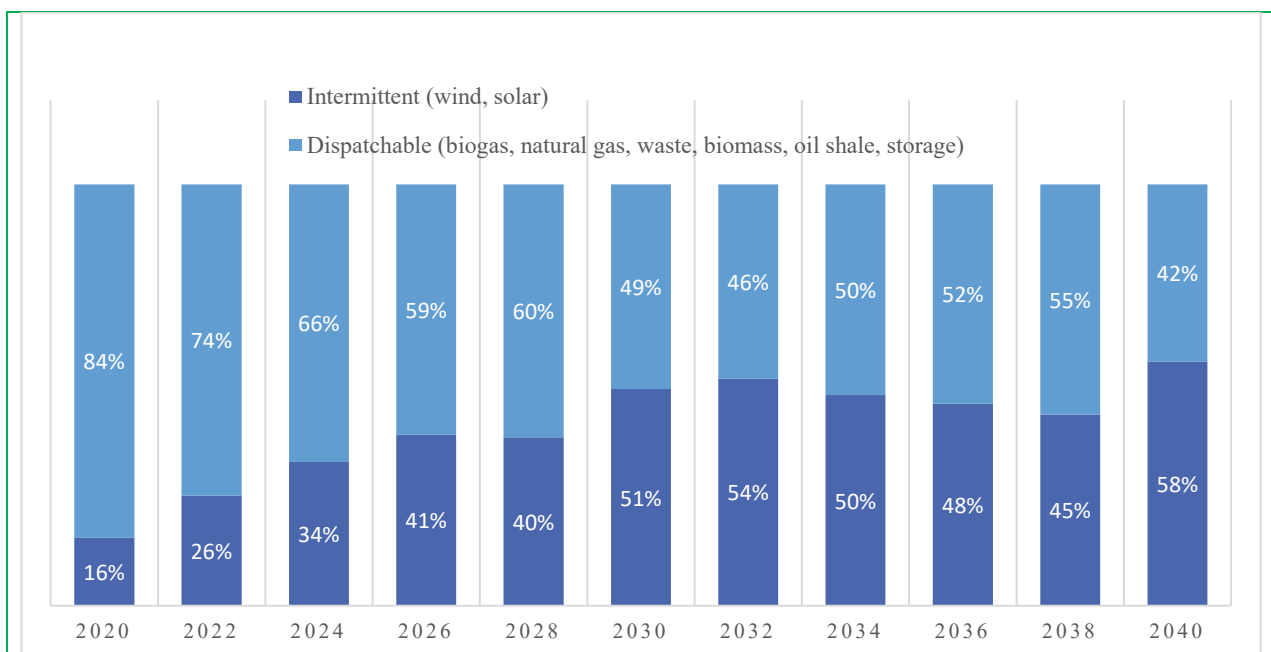


Figure 4: The projection of the proportion of dispatchable and intermittent capacities in electricity production in Estonia, based on NECP 2030

3. Securing power supply. New capacities of wind and solar energy are intermittent, so balancing options need to be developed. Estonia's typical electricity consumption is around 900 MW, peaking in cold winter conditions at around 1500 MW. In 2020, Estonia imported ~42,5% of the electricity it consumed and during the transition to climate neutral electricity production, a significant amount of our consumption will most likely be covered via electricity imports. Interconnection capacities with our EU neighbours (~2500 MW) well exceed our peak consumption. The ongoing process of synchronising the Baltic States' electricity system to the EU networks by 2025 will further enhance our energy security. When issues with generation adequacy are identified, a capacity mechanism can be initialised in order to maintain security of supply, whereas market-based solutions must be considered first.

4. Innovation, research and development, incl. surveys and piloting in the fields of energy efficiency, climate neutral power systems, carbon neutral heating and cooling, decarbonisation of the gas systems, exploring the potential of hydrogen, piloting CCS and CCU technologies and so on.

1.2 Justification for identifying the territories as most negatively affected by the transition process

The oil shale sector in Estonia is highly concentrated in the eastern-most region of Ida-Virumaa (or Ida-Viru for short), resulting in the fact that oil shale related companies located in the region account for over 50% of Estonia's total GHG emissions in 2019.

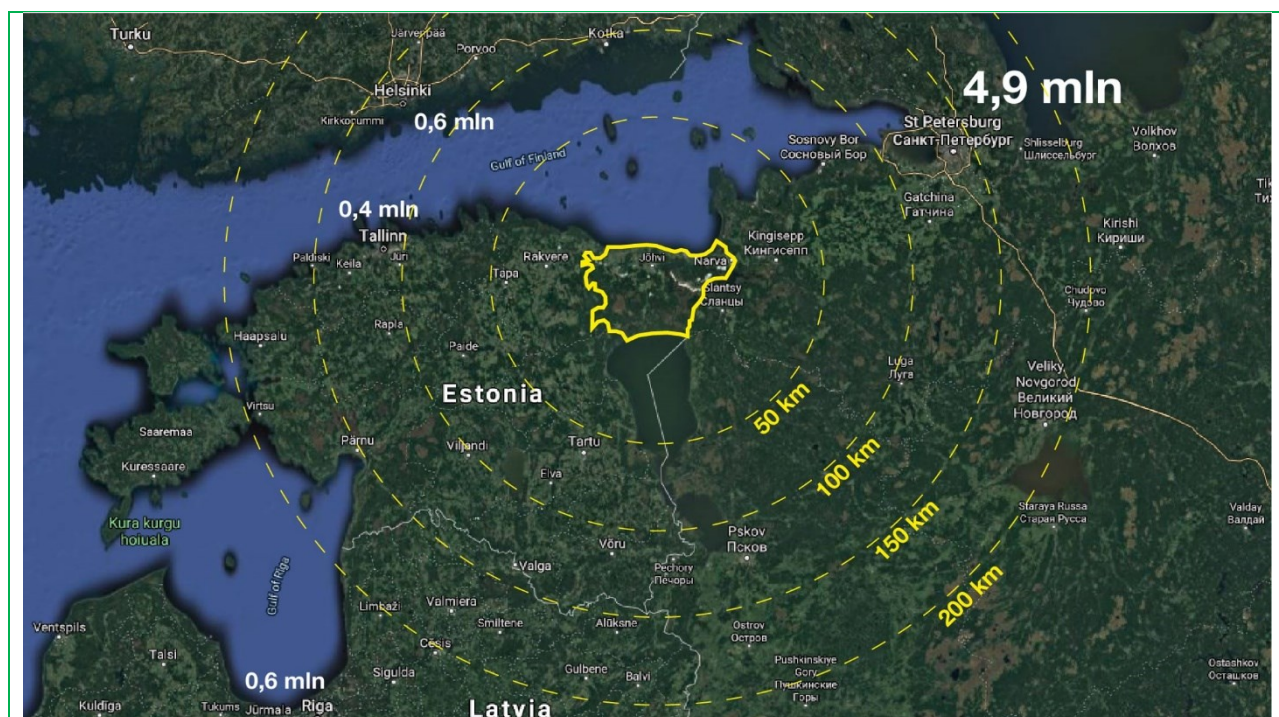


Figure 5: Location of the Ida-Viru region in the larger east-Baltic context, incl distances from major population centers

Ida-Viru factsheet:

- **Population** as of 01.01.2021 amounted to 133 888 people, and is rapidly ageing and decreasing. If current trends continue, by 2045, the population of Ida-Virumaa will decrease by almost 50,000 people compared to today. The number of women in Ida-Virumaa is decreasing faster (-25%) compared to men (-19%).
- **Estonian language** is spoken as their mother tongue by only 17.5% of the county's residents. The most commonly spoken language is Russian.
- **The economy** of the region depends on 5,900 companies with a combined quarterly turnover of 505 mln €, employing a total of 40,800 people. There are 15 employers in the area with more than 250 employees; 11 of those employers are business companies and of those – 67% are companies in the oil shale sector.
- **Incomes** in Ida-Virumaa are among the lowest nationally and amount to an average of 1161 €/mo (compared to Estonia's average of 1448 €/mo; 2020), with the exception of the oil shale sector, where an average salary is 1,663 €/mo. Partly due to the region's historically low wages and lack of job opportunities outside the energy sector, people from other regions of Estonia are reluctant to consider the region as a place to live; the same applies for the region's youth.
- **Labor market disparities** have a crippling effect on Ida-Viru's population. The first one is the labor gap between Estonians and non-Estonians, due to the latter's insufficient Estonian skills. In 2018 on the national level, the unemployment level of Estonians was almost three times lower (4.4%) compared to non-Estonian-speaking non-Estonians (13.0%). The second major gap is the gender pay gap, which in Ida-Viru is the highest in Estonia (27.9% as of 2019).
- **Unemployment** rate in Ida-Virumaa has long exceeded the Estonian average. Pre-COVID 2019, the unemployment rate in Ida-Virumaa was 10,2%, being twice as high as in Estonia as a whole (5,3%). Unemployment rate as of 01.01.2021 is 13,9%.
- **Relative poverty** is a daily reality for 35% of the county's population (vs. the Estonian average of 21%), and this share has steadily increased over the last decade. As of 2018, the relative poverty line is 576 euros per month per equivalent household member.

Oil shale industry in the Ida-Viru region:

- The oil shale sector has been strategically important for the Estonian economy since 1920's and has substantially influenced the socio-economic and environmental conditions of Ida-Viru county.

In 2019, oil shale industry accounted for an estimated ~5% of the national economy and ca 2.5% of total employment. Employees in the sector make up 13% of all employees in the region, but labor taxes paid for them account for 1/4 of the region's labor taxes.

- The sector is undergoing major transition. The peak of oil shale mining and processing in Ida-Viru was in the 1980s, with over 14,000 people working in the mines alone. Since the 1990s the sector has been in decline (see Figure 7 below). As of 31.12.2019, 5,813 people worked in the oil shale sector in Ida-Virumaa. During 2020, 1,033 of them stopped working and another 43 contracts have been suspended.
- The largest employer in the sector is the state energy company Eesti Energia and the related group of companies, which employ a total of almost 3,500 people.

Company name (2020)	EMTAK code	Location	State taxes paid (€)	Labor taxes paid (€)	Turnover (€)	Nr of employees	
Eesti Energia AS	35141	Tallinn	11 891 758	4 029 647	212 976 622	926	
Elektrilevi OÜ	35131		3 475 426	2 373 666		704	
Enefit Energiatootmine AS	35111	Narva-Jõesuu	2 223 741	2 188 325		762	
Enefit Kaevandused AS	6101	Jõhvi	2 157 012	2 306 393		856	
Enefit Solutions AS	33121		2 376 517	2 549 902		990	
Viru Keemia Grupp AS	70101	Kohtla-Järve	281 056	296 670		101	
Viru RMT OÜ	33201		292 292	314 926		130	
VKG Elektrivõrgud OÜ	35131	Narva	135 335	96 117		48 778 354	36
VKG Energia OÜ	35301	Kohtla-Järve	284 067	255 671			99
VKG Kaevandused OÜ	6101		1 532 346	1 647 124			474
VKG Logistika OÜ	52219		229 388	246 402	128		
VKG Oil AS	19201		1 774 459	1 605 088	625		
VKG Soojus AS	35301	44 334	47 122	17			
Kiviõli Keemiatööstuse OÜ	35301	Lüganuse vald	-	36 853	6 189 715	5	
KKT Oil OÜ	19201		814 157	871 067		539	
Silpower AS	35301	Sillamäe	-	289 369	2 313 201	139	
TOTAL			27 511 886	19 154 342	270 257 892	6 531	
TOTAL, adjusted to Ida-Virumaa employees only			20 291 943	14 765 835	200 756 554	5 148	
Proportion of all Ida-Virumaa companies			27%	25%	40%	13%	

Figure 6: Profile of the core companies of the oil shale sector in the Ida-Viru region as of 2020

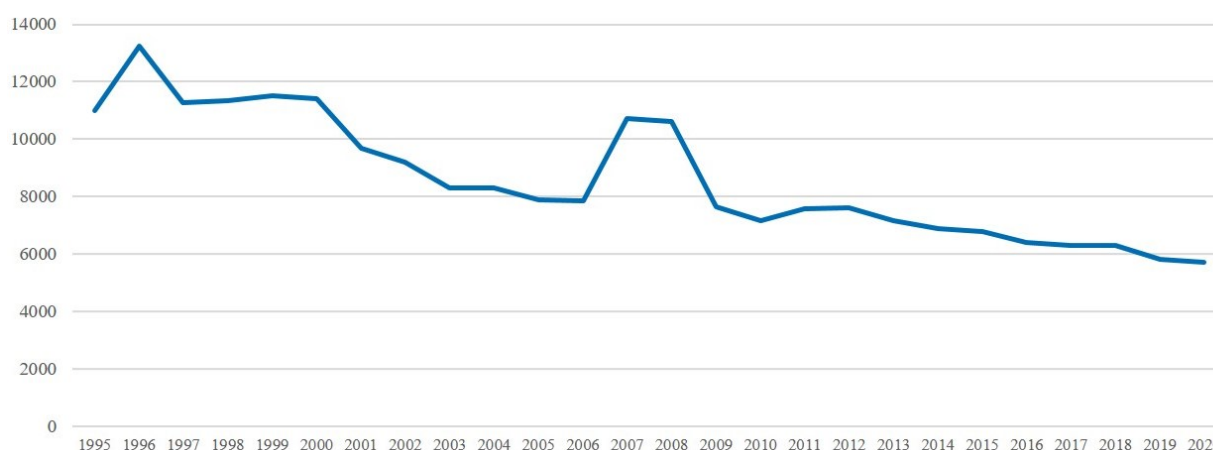


Figure 7: Ongoing transition: number of people, employed in the oil shale sector in Ida-Virumaa (1995 – 2020)

Based on the information above, it is obvious that the transition to climate neutrality will have – and is already having – the largest impact specifically on the Ida-Viru region of Estonia. This corresponds to the conclusion of the Annex D of European Commission’s “Country Report Estonia 2020” ([link](#), p 62).

2. ASSESSMENT OF TRANSITION CHALLENGES, FOR EACH OF THE IDENTIFIED TERRITORIES

2.1. Assessment of the economic, social and territorial impact of the transition to a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050

Text field [12000]

Economic impact

Companies in the oil shale sector are the cornerstone of Ida-Viru region's economy, both in terms of their turnover and high impact on companies dependent on these companies. According to the study "Adaptation of Ida-Virumaa county's economy and labor market to the reduction of oil shale industry" ([link](#)) by Praxis Centre for Policy Studies, we can best describe the economic impact of the shrinking oil shale sector on the economy of Ida-Virumaa via a cascading economic effect:

- I tier – core companies of the oil shale sector;
- II tier – entities, directly dependent on the core companies, whose services or products are largely directed at or receive significant input from oil shale sector's core enterprises, e.g. producers of explosives, assemblers of thermomechanical and petrochemical equipment, etc. Due to such companies' specific fields of activity, it will be difficult for them to re-profile in the absence of the oil shale sector;
- III tier – indirectly dependent economic entities, for which the proximity of oil shale and tier II companies as well as related industrial infrastructure are beneficial and give a certain (scale) effect, e.g. regional cargo ports, manufacturers of workwear, installers and maintainers of various industrial equipment, hazardous waste handlers etc.;
- IV tier – other indirectly dependent entities, such as service sector companies and SMEs. The shrinking of the oil shale sector affects these companies mostly through its employees, since the employees of the oil shale sector and their households consume the products and services of the tier IV companies;
- V tier – other entities, e.g. various NGOs, government and state agencies.

It is apparent that in addition to core oil shale sector companies, tier II and III entities are most at risk from the transition.

According to the "Annual report of the oil shale sector 2019" ([link](#)), in 2019 the combined income of the companies in the oil shale sector was ca 725 mln €. Judging by the annual financial statements of the sector's core companies, we can assume that at least 10% of the aforementioned income was spent procuring products or services from local businesses. Considering that a standard employment multiplier in Estonia is 6,2 jobs per every 1 mln € in sales, the disappearance of the oil shale sector would result in the immediate loss of 450 jobs in the direct partner-companies of the oil shale core companies alone.

In addition, according to the study "Estonian national wealth created by the oil shale oil value chain", carried out by KPMG Baltics in 2020 ([link](#)), one job in the oil shale sector generates anywhere between 1.3 to 3.9 indirect jobs in other sectors. This means, that the 4,737 jobs that existed in the oil shale sector as of January 2021 could have an influence on another 6,158 to 18,474 jobs in the region. Considering the total working population of Ida-Viru is ca 40,800 people, oil shale sector can have an impact on anywhere between 25% and 57% of Ida-Virumaa's entire working population.

In Estonia, local governments receive a part of the personal income tax of their residents and in Ida-Virumaa local income tax accounts for an average of 46% of municipalities' income. In 2019, an average of 14% of this amount came from the income tax paid for the employees of the oil shale sector. In addition, municipalities benefit from the oil shale sector via fees for mining and special water use, on average amounting to only 4% of municipal income with two remarkable exceptions: Alutaguse municipality – 42%, and the town of Narva-Jõesuu – 11%. Therefore, the decline of the oil shale sector will decrease the combined income of Ida-Viru's municipalities by 10% (ranging from 5% to 45% in individual municipalities), which has serious consequences for the capacity of Ida-Viru's

municipalities to provide necessary services to their residents, such as social services, local transportation, waste management and upkeep of public infrastructure.

Social impact

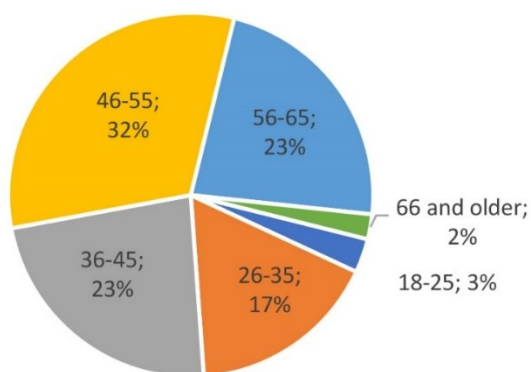
Transition to a carbon-neutral economy in Ida-Virumaa can only be just and sustainable, if it includes the development of the wider educational and social systems, as this will determine, whether people will see the region as a place fit to live, work and invest in.

The population of Ida-Virumaa has decreased from 221,807 people in 1990 to 133 888 in 2020, which is the largest decrease of population nationally. This has led to a decrease in the working age population and an increase in the ratio of dependents. As a result, Ida-Virumaa stands out in terms of poorer socio-economic indicators (such as relative poverty, inequalities based on social, health- and social affiliation parameters, e.g. gender, age, disability, etc.) and therefore needs dedicated attention from ESF+ and other funds targeting social and territorial inclusion. The ongoing transition has the potential to exacerbate this situation further.

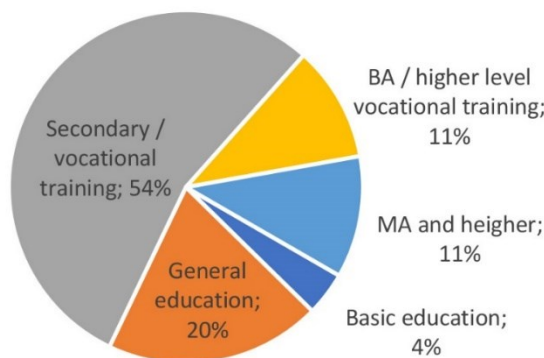
The social impact of the transition manifests itself through the wellbeing of the employees of the oil shale sector and their families, as well as through wider repercussions. The average duration of employment in the oil shale sector is 10 years and the average monthly income is 1,663 euros (median salary 1,470 euros) with the average age of employees – 47 years. All this makes labor mobility difficult for the employees of the sector.

An important trend is the decrease in the number of young employees in the oil shale sector. Proportion of people under 35 currently stands at 16% and in the last five years only 30% of new employees are under the age of 35. The attractiveness of jobs in the sector has been reduced by both the EU climate policy and Estonia's declaration of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. This outflux of youth manifests a wider issue: partly due to the region's low wages and lack of job opportunities outside the energy sector, historically, the youth were reluctant to consider Ida-Viru as a place to live. In order to motivate them to stay, new creative jobs will need to be created.

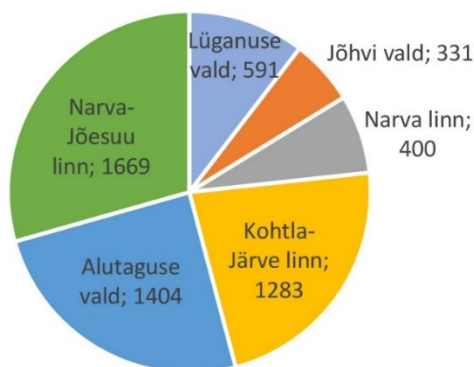
Age



Education



Job location



Job type

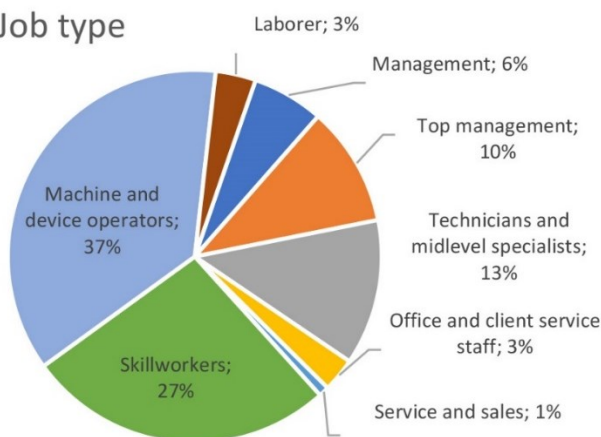


Figure 8: profile of the employees of the oil shale sector's core companies

Ca 16,000 people, of which 3,500 are minors, live in households employed in the oil shale sector, with 34% of households having only one recipient of wage income. In the context of the decline of the oil shale sector, ca 8,000 people are at direct risk of falling below poverty line.

As explained above, the decline of the oil shale sector also means an increasingly large hole in the budgets of the local municipalities, hindering them to provide adequate services to their communities. An increase in the number of recipients of subsistence benefits as a result of the transition poses an additional problem for local municipalities, since their ability to provide social assistance is low and capacity to apply for funding via social projects is often lacking.

An invisible aspect of the transition is also its impact on the identity and cultural heritage of the region. Oil shale industry has been a source of pride for the local community since 1920's, and has largely determined the values, attitudes and aspirations of local residents. In the context of the phase out of the oil shale sector, the identity of oil shale communities will need to be preserved and their continuity will need to be safeguarded, including paying attention to the tangible and non-tangible industrial heritage and culture.

Environmental impact

Exploitation of the region for oil shale has had a significant local environmental impact, which needs to be addressed.

A total area of ~450 km² has been mined for oil shale in Ida-Virumaa, with 300 km² of it – underground. Collapsing of old and shallow (<15m) mine sites has increased recently, causing dangerous sudden changes in ground surface. Lower groundwater level in mining areas influences the water regime as well, undermining the ordovician aquifer (sulphates, coarseness) and rendering surface water in such areas unsuitable for drinking. This influences water-dependent ecosystems, which in case of Ida-Viru are mainly wetlands.

The oil shale industry also produces almost 90% of all waste in Estonia. Although the waste rock from mining is today mostly inert, the old waste rock hills are a source of residual pollution. The recovery rate of oil shale waste is relatively small: while 60% of waste rock is reused, 97,6% of new oil shale ash is deposited in ash mountains.

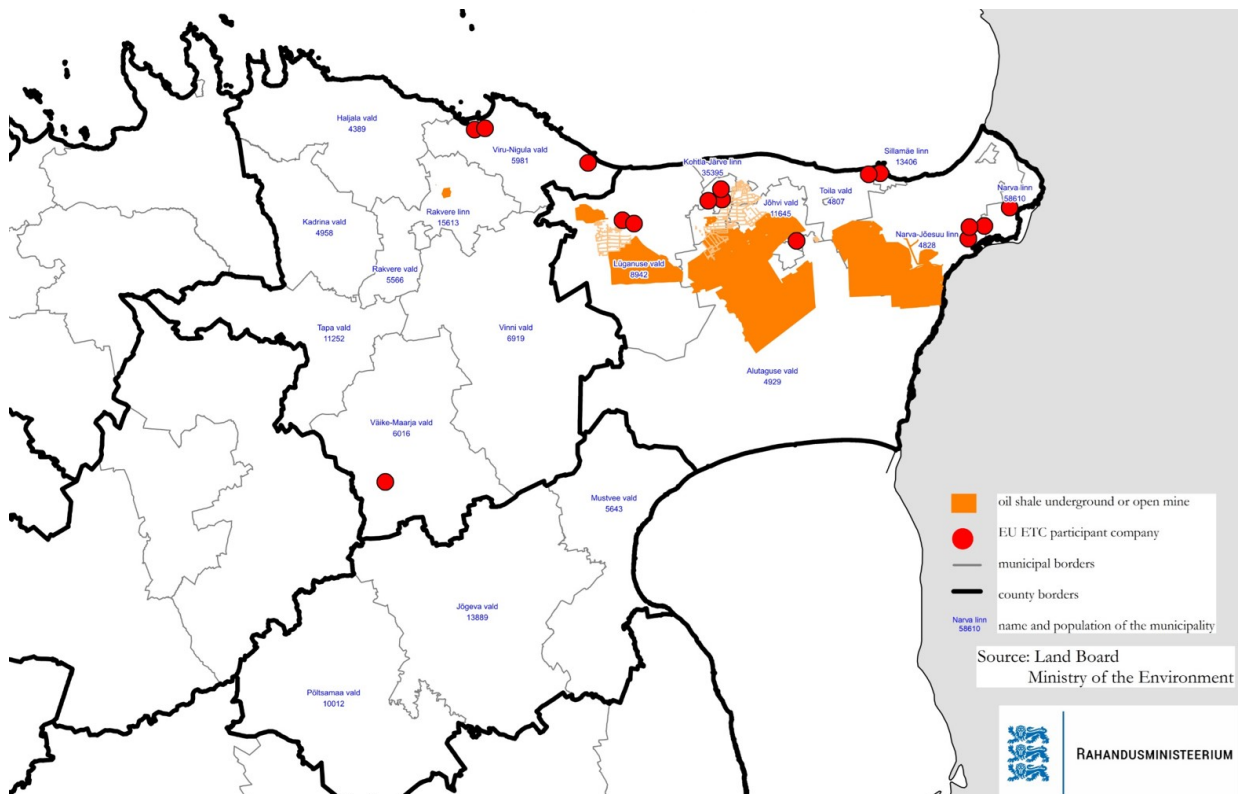


Figure 9: Map of oil shale mining areas and ETS participant companies in Ida-Viru region

All this has its impact on the health of Ida-Viru's residents. First studies of the influence of oil shale on health dating back 30 years found increased levels of heavy metals and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) metabolites among the population and workers in the oil shale sector. In 2014-2015 a preliminary study „Study of the Health Impact of Oil Shale Sector“ was conducted, confirming that the health status of residents of Ida-Viru County is worse in many respects than elsewhere in Estonia, with environmental pollution originating from the oil shale sector being one of the potential reasons. A comprehensive health study is needed to corroborate these findings.

Potential growth areas

Since Ida-Virumaa is a traditionally industrial area where people have the relevant knowledge, experience and habit of working in industrial companies, in restructuring the region's economy one of the foci should be supporting the manufacturing industry. In case on new companies, it is critical to support developments which follow global technological trends and help Estonia achieve its climate goals, such as environmental and green technologies, renewable energy, circular industries, hydrogen production and the such. It is also important to keep the existing industries that still have growth potential due to their long-standing traditions, skilled labor and infrastructure, e.g. production of chemicals, plastics, metal products, textiles and clothing, electrical equipment and electronics, shipping equipment, mining of mineral resources.

Manufacturing must be supported by the ICT sector, as a second priority, which will increase the competitiveness of local companies in the context of increasing automation and digitalisation.

Other sectors that would further diversify the economy of Ida-Virumaa and advance its reputation should also be supported: construction, health and social work, cultural sector and creative industries, including the film industry, which is already present in the region and can use decommissioned mining and industrial sites as a unique advantage.

All this will ensure a variety of employment opportunities for the residents, attract diverse talent, improve the attractiveness of the region and future-proof its economy. In the context of balanced development, improving the attractiveness of the Ida-Virumaa region as a whole is also important.

Requalification needs:

Based on the risk factors of various occupational groups (see Figure 8), about 49% of the entire oil shale sector workforce will need training or retraining in order to support their transition to new fields. The remaining 51% do not need further training or retraining as their skills are readily applicable in other fields, however, they may need additional job search support.

The need for retraining is greatest in senior positions: retraining at higher education level is needed mainly for managers and top specialists (2% of the total need for in-service training and retraining) and at vocational level, especially for technicians and intermediate specialists (13% of the total need for in-service training and retraining). Replacing retraining with in-service training is possible primarily in the field of chemical and fuel technology, as there is a need for specialists in this field in the region due to the development of the chemical industry in fields other than oil shale chemistry. In the case of specialists in the field of mining, it is possible to replace retraining with in-service training if new opportunities for extracting other mineral resources arise in the region.

Special attention needs to be paid to skillworkers and machinery operators in order to support their transition to the specificities of other industries or applying skills in potential growth areas. In-service training should suffice in most cases, but there may also be a need for complete retraining due to an oversupply of skills or if there is a desire to apply oneself in a new field. In this case, there is high potential for work-based learning, which allows the acquired skills to be applied immediately in the workplace.

Although the training offer in the region is already diverse today, it is important to keep in mind the possible new growth areas in the Ida-Viru region. The potential target group for in-service training and retraining in the oil shale sector exceeds the current capacity of vocational schools, which is why

it is important to prepare educational institutions for the growing training demand, especially in potential growth areas.

Regardless of the occupational group, it is important to secure an offering of Russian-language curricula in order to support the readiness of adult learners to study in a familiar language environment. The study should be supported by in-depth Estonian language study and, if necessary, professional language study (incl. English language study) in order to develop the readiness to work in different language environments.

2.2. Development needs and objectives by 2030 in view of reaching climate neutrality by 2050

Text field [6000]

The **general objective** of Estonia's TJTP is to enable the transition to a climate-neutral economy in a way that guarantees the well-being of the population and continuing functioning of local governments of the Ida-Viru region, while supporting the entrepreneurs in identifying and implementing new business opportunities resulting from the transition.

In order to accomplish this, the first and foremost challenge of the transition is **transforming the economy** of the Ida-Viru region with the view of diversifying it and creating new high value-added jobs.

Both the Praxis Centre for Policy Studies analysis quoted above and Ida-Viru's "Business Plan" (or "Plan B", please see chapter 2.3 below) observe that, granted decades of industrial development, robust infrastructural networks, a wealth of both greenfield- and brownfield development areas and a hard-working workforce with strong STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills, **modern manufacturing industry** should be the top priority for Ida-Virumaa in the context of transitioning to a climate-neutral economy.

At the same time, both studies point out that the key to a successful economic transformation lies in **diversification** both in the areas highlighted as potential growth areas in the chapter 2.1 above and focus areas chosen by Estonia in its smart specialisation strategy (see chapter 2.3 below), and also in auxiliary fields. Regardless of the sphere of activity, the goal needs to be the development of **higher value-added products and services** which will in turn create jobs above the average wage level in their respective sectors. This goal will require leveraging the expertise of local **research institutions** to raise local companies' technology awareness, and support them in taking on **research and development** (R&D) and **innovation** activities of their own.

Diversification is not something we can hope to happen naturally, so establishing a dedicated support infrastructure for the emergence of a lively **ecosystem** of microenterprises, start-ups, creative industries, ICT and other auxiliary fields will be paramount to the holistic transformation of the region's economy.

To unlock this transformation, we will need to address **market failures** in access to capital for investments and R&D. SMEs in the Ida-Viru region have historically had trouble raising necessary capital, therefore effort must be made to make sure that the existing local enterprises have access to necessary capital in order to participate in the actions foreseen in this territorial just transition plan (TJTP).

The second major challenge posed by the transition is **supporting the people and communities impacted by the transition process**.

Through the Just Transition Fund (JTF), we will need to provide a safety net for those whose transition will start with losing their income. We need to encourage effective **re-profiling** and provide comprehensive **labor mobility** solutions for the employees of the oil shale sector, if we want to avoid long-term unemployment and poverty. On the other hand, since 34% of households related to the oil shale sector have only one recipient of wage income and in the absolute majority of cases he is male,

it is important to **empower women** and make sure that the transition supports a wider socio-economic change by integrating previously unemployed members of households into the workforce and providing them with the necessary support for them to address the issues that have so far excluded them from the labor market.

Decades of focusing on industrial labor has also had its impact on Ida-Virumaa peoples' entrepreneurial ambitions, which are among the lowest in Estonia, and estranged the region's **youth** (see chapter 3 below). Therefore, in addition to re-profiling of the oil shale sector employees, the region will need a wider augmented **training programme** ensuring future students' proficiency in at least three languages, strong digital competencies, an entrepreneurial attitude and enthusiasm about their role in transforming their home region.

Investments will need to be made into **local governments**, e.g. in the field of providing **social and care services** (since a lot of associated activities could previously be performed by the unemployed members of oil shale households), **energy performance**, which will allow local governments' to trim their expenses, and **local mobility** in order to knit the region – and its transforming economy – closer together. Alternative climate-neutral **heating** solutions will also need to be developed for the larger municipalities of Ida-Virumaa, since historically they have been heated by waste heat and gases from electricity production and shale oil production.

It is important to keep in mind that people are not merely subjects of the transition, but also **makers** of it. The local community has not yet been able to recover fully from the disillusionment and social numbness that followed the collapse of the local industry some thirty years ago, so it is paramount to ensure “ownership” of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy by the local community via encouraging individual agency in the process. In turn, this puts extra pressure on **communicating** the transition – in a language understandable to the local population – not just carrying it out.

During the transition we will also need to **address the legacy environmental and health effects of oil shale exploitation** through rewilding and rehabilitation of contaminated brownfield sites, increasing the region's circular capacity (while developing it as part of restructuring the economy) and better understanding the health effects of oil shale processing.

Responses to the aforementioned development needs will have to address effectively both the **immediate effects** of the transition (e.g. labor support schemes) and the **long-term structural changes** needed in the Ida-Viru region (e.g. economic diversification, education, health).

2.3. Consistency with other relevant national, regional or territorial strategies and plans

Text field [6000]

Apart from aforementioned Estonia's climate and energy related strategies that provide the overall framework for Estonia's transition to a climate-neutral economy, the strategic framework of Estonia's TJTP is established by two strategic documents: the national “Ida-Viru action plan for the period of 2015-2030” and the regional “Ida-Viru county development strategy for the period 2019-2030”. *NB! Both documents are being revised concurrently with the preparation of Estonia's TJTP, therefore some of the information below might be outdated and will be updated by final submission of Estonia's TJTP. The general logic and hierarchy of documents is valid.*

The “**Ida-Viru action plan for the period of 2015-2030**” is a national strategic document, which aims to support the development of Ida-Virumaa as an economically and strategically important region of Estonia. Based on regional studies of development needs, the action plan aims to contextualize various national strategies to the Ida-Viru region and plan specific actions on the national level (mainly actions by ministries to speed up the region's development and to support the implementation of the regional development strategy by adding new region-specific interventions or adjusting terms for national or EU funds usage). Among the strategies used as the base for the action plan are the “Estonian Regional Development action plan” and Estonian long-term development

strategy “Eesti 2035”. Ida-Viru action plan will be renewed, as several national sectoral strategies are being updated in the coming years.

The implementation of the Just Transition Mechanism (hereafter: *JTM*) comprises only a part of the action plan. JTF investments are complementary to the rest of the OP and specifically targeted at Ida-Virumaa.

The Ministry of Finance of Estonia is the responsible body for drawing up, monitoring the progress and updating the action plan.

The **“Ida-Viru county development strategy for the period 2019-2030”** ([link](#)) is a regional strategic document that is drawn up by the Association of Local Authorities of Ida-Viru County in close cooperation with local stakeholders, and is the territorial strategy in the sense referred to in Article 23 of the new Common Provision Regulation (hereafter: *CPR*). The strategy defines the local vision for the development of Ida-Viru and outlines the most important regional development priorities for the period until 2030. As such, the strategy is the blueprint for setting up joint activities between county's eight local government units and their cooperation partners, planning joint investments of country-wide importance, and applying for support for such investments. The vision layed out in the strategy is that “by 2030, Ida-Viru will be an economically well-developed region with fast transport connections and a valued living environment, forming a part of the developing economic area of the Gulf of Finland”. To achieve this vision, the strategy defines sectoral goals, and also features a system of sectorial “sub-plans”:

- “Plan B” – regional business plan for business development and investment;
- “Plan C” – regional plan to reduce carbon emissions;
- “Plan G” – regional green plan for boosting green-, bio-, blue- and circular economy sectors;
- “Plan E” – regional education plan.

The biggest challenge, layed out in the county's development strategy is how to ensure the availability of high-quality public services, economic development and the well-being of the population in a region with a declining and aging population. Being a border region of the EU, the activities planned in and the expected results of the development strategy of Ida-Viru county depend heavily on the changing external environment, including EU's relationship with Russia.

The “Ida-Viru county development strategy for the period 2019-2030” is currently being revised and is to be adopted by Ida-Viru region's local governments in 2022.

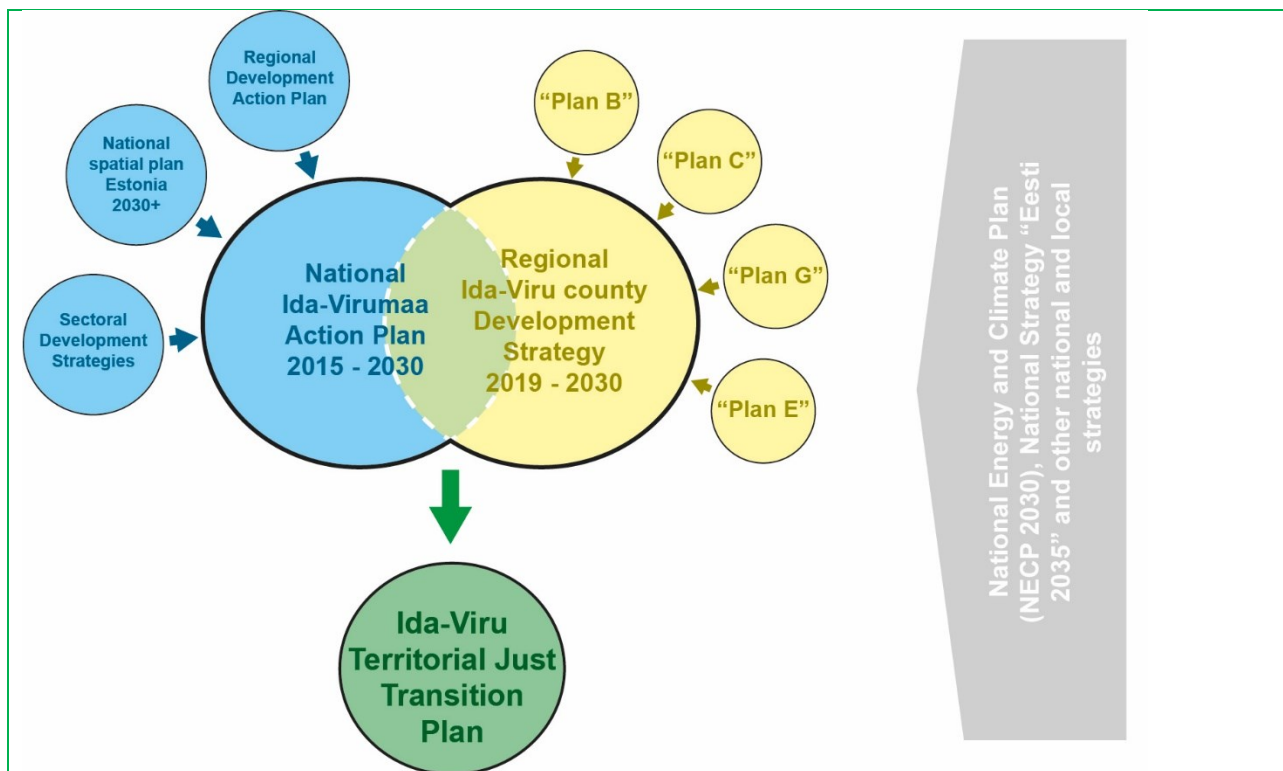


Figure 10: The strategic framework of Estonia's territorial just transition plan (TJTP)

Conceptually, **Estonia's TJTP** is the result of the two aforementioned strategic documents, overlaid on top of each other and looked at specifically through the lens of the transition to a climate-neutral economy. Although the transition process itself is very long-term, the TJTP focuses on the period until 2030.

Apart from the Ida-Viru action plan and development strategy, the TJTP is supported by the **“County-wide spatial plan of Ida-Viru County 2030+”**, which covers the whole territory of the Ida-Viru county and lends strategic documents a spatial dimension by defining main directions of Ida-Viru's spatial development and serving as the base for developing comprehensive plans for individual municipalities'. The county-wide spatial plan defines in broad strokes the region's land use, location of industrial areas and other areas with opportunities for development, corridors reserved for existing and planned infrastructure, objects and landscapes of high cultural and environmental significance, etc.

Apart from the aforementioned documents, Ida-Viru is also subject to Estonia's **Smart Specialization Strategy**, which currently includes five areas of focus:

- digital solutions in all spheres of life;
- health related technologies and services;
- valorization of local natural resources;
- smart, sustainable and climate-neutral energy solutions;
- vigorous environment for Estonian society, language and culture.

Since Estonia is a single NUTS2 unit, national strategies apply to the whole territory of Estonia, including the Ida-Viru region.

2.4. Types of operations envisaged

Text field [12000]

The operations envisaged in this TJTP and described in detail below aim to alleviate in the most effective fashion the unique challenges faced by the Ida-Viru region in view of the transition to a

carbon-neutral economy and take into account both the potential growth areas and regional development needs.

Conceptually, Estonia's JTF programme is split into two main strands. The first strand is called "Economy and labour" and aims to solve the main challenge of the transition: restructuring and diversifying the local economy and workforce. Actions foreseen as part of the first programmatic strand largely correspond to activities described in points a, b, c, d, k, l and m of paragraph 2 Article 8 of the Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund. The second strand is called "Environment and social inclusion" and tackles the social, environmental and community aspects of the transition. Actions foreseen as part of this programmatic strand largely correspond to activities described in points d, e, f, g, h, i, j and o of paragraph 2 Article 8 of the JTF Regulation.

For most interventions, the process of applying for funding will be competitive, being based on open calls. For each action, a set of conditions will be established, under which project ideas may be submitted; the incoming ideas will then be assessed and granted funding based on fulfilling these conditions.

The focus of Estonia's TJTP is on supporting the growth, diversification and competitiveness of SMEs. However, given the fact that the absolute majority of businesses operating in Estonia can be qualified as SMEs, a more nuanced approach to designing adequate support mechanisms will be necessary in case of Estonia.

The resulting JTF programming structure is as follows:

Name of the intervention

Brief description

Programmatic strand nr.1: Economy and labour

Ida-Viru grand investment grant

The goal of this action is to diversify the region's economy by supporting new large-scale productive investments in businesses with higher value-added jobs. Projects compete for funding in three categories: a) medium-sized new projects with the total amount of investment falling under 50 mln €, b) large new projects above 50 mln €, c) reprofiling projects. The measure will be available to both SMEs and larger companies (please see an indicative list below), provided they comply with the requirements set out in the JTF Regulation. Funding will be distributed via open calls.

Increasing the knowledge intensity of Ida-Viru entrepreneurship

The intervention has two aims:
 1) To support R&D and innovation activities, aimed at developing higher value-added products and services and thus creating jobs above the average wage level in their respective sectors. The intervention will be available to private enterprises, both SMEs and larger companies, provided they comply with the requirements set out in the JTF Regulation. Funding will be distributed via open calls.
 2) To empower local educational and research institutions, e.g. support research and development in areas relevant to the needs of the local business, establishment of special-purpose labs, hiring research staff, etc. Research topics are to be funded through research grants.

Services in support of economic diversification

The intervention will include advisory and development services supporting the establishment of new companies and improving the capacity of existing ones, revitalizing the regional business environment (including development of the start-up, tourism and creative economy ecosystem) and introducing the region as a destination for foreign investment, tourism and living. Funding will be distributed via a programme-based action and investment plan in two-

	<p>year sprints through local strategic partners, such as regional development organisations.</p>
Ida-Viru SMEs investment grant	<p>The purpose of this intervention is to increase the long-term competitiveness and export capacity of small and micro enterprises operating in Ida-Virumaa through supporting the development of innovative, circular and higher value-added products, services, technologies and processes or increasing the human and structural capital of region's small businesses. The service or process developed under this scheme need not be market-oriented, but may also be aimed at increasing the company's internal capacity to develop and implement new and higher value-added product- or service-related processes, including staff development, sales and marketing, production and service processes etc. Funding will be distributed via open calls.</p>
JTF labor market measures	<p>Two intervention consists of two actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Temporary income support for oil shale sector workers, who are transitioning into new jobs. The action aims to temporarily reduce the disparity between the previous and the new income level for employees leaving the oil shale sector. This will motivate them to start a new job sooner, helping avoid long-term unemployment. The main component of the support measure is the partial compensation of the difference in wages for a certain period of time for former employees of the oil shale sector.2) Reskilling and upskilling programmes, which will include an improved in-service, preventive and re-training offering, supporting the smooth transition of people leaving the oil shale sector for other fields or their re-profiling within the same company. The measure mostly targets current and former employees of the oil-shale sector. Funding will be distributed programmatically.
Increasing the volume of in-service training, vocational and higher education offering	<p>The intervention aims to broaden educational capacity in Ida-Viru county by better integrating formal and non-formal education, as well as tying education with other spheres of life (e.g. entrepreneurship, tourism), developing digital competences, introducing lifelong learning, linking vocational education more effectively with entrepreneurship, etc. The measure aims to ensure students' proficiency in at least three languages, strong digital competencies and an entrepreneurial attitude. The target group of the measure are the youth (including prospective and current students), companies interested in raising the qualification of their employees, as well as currently employed persons engaging in life-long learning. Funding will be distributed programmatically.</p>
Programmatic strand nr.2: Environment and social inclusion	
Decoupling district heating from oil shale	<p>Ida-Virumaa county is the last region in Estonia where fossil fuels are used in district heating on a large scale, since the residual heat of the oil shale industry and electricity production is used to heat buildings. As the oil shale sector shrinks, the municipalities of Ida-Viru risk being left without viable heating solutions in the foreseeable future. This intervention will support investments in decoupling district heating from oil shale, including construction of combined heat and power (CHP) plants based on biomass, fuel switching to renewable sources,</p>

	etc. Funding will be distributed on a competitive basis between local heat providers.
Alleviating environmental and health impacts of oil shale mining and processing	The intervention aims at alleviating the legacy environmental effects of oil shale exploitation, thus creating preconditions for reuse of contaminated areas for e.g. forestry, brownfield industrial development, etc. The measure consists of three actions: a) decontamination and/or rewilding of brownfield areas, b) improving local hazardous waste processing and circularity capacity, c) carrying out biomonitoring, which will help assess human exposure to natural and synthetic compounds in the living and working environment. Funding will be distributed programmatically.
Empowering people's wellbeing in Ida-Virumaa	The aim of the intervention is to create a unified and easily accessible network of social and health care services in the region, develop better links between the health and social care systems, including child protection, thereby contributing to the process of the socio-economic transition in Ida-Virumaa. Funding will be distributed programmatically.
Local government investments in JTF-eligible areas	In the context of shrinking municipal budgets, this intervention intends to support local governments of Ida-Viru in making necessary investments that support the transition, e.g. construction of training centers, setting up welfare and childcare facilities, improving the energy efficiency of public buildings, developing sustainable mobility, promoting circular economy, etc. Funding will be distributed via open calls.
Support for regional initiatives amplifying the just transition	The intervention aims to give a "human dimension" to the transition process by supporting grassroot initiatives, e.g. community-based educational and social inclusion initiatives; promotion of environmental awareness and circular practices; social, cultural and other innovation; preservation, development and interpretation of local industrial heritage and identity; youth-oriented and youth-initiated activities, etc. The positive side effects of this measure are the growth of civil society, improvement of the feeling of belonging in people living in a historically difficult region, the increase of the region's attractiveness and the development of social entrepreneurship. Funding will be distributed via open calls.
Expected contribution to alleviating the impact of the transition:	
Total JTF allocation to Estonia currently stands at 353,90 mln, including 14,16 mln technical assistance. Given Ida-Viru region's current population within NUTS3 borders being 133 888 people (as of 01.01.2021), the resulting aid intensity is 2 643 eur / person.	
Some of the expected outcomes of the aforementioned actions are:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• > 400 SME's supported through the various interventions;• > 2,000 new jobs created in supported enterprises;• > 300 million € of additional private investment mobilized;• 17,500 participants in training courses based on the skill demands of employers;• 150 MW of additional renewable energy production capacity in district heating;• 60 ha of rehabilitated land used for green areas, economic or other uses.	
Indicative list of productive investments to enterprises other than SMEs	

Since allocation of JTF funds for enterprises in Ida-Virumaa will be based on open calls, it is impossible to know in advance, what enterprises or operations will apply for funding, and hence no preliminary commitments can be made in advance. However, some operations that have been signaled for support through the JTF by enterprises other than SMEs during the preparation of this TJTP are the following:

1. Ragn Sells AS:

- a. The goal of the project is to produce high purity level precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC, used as a raw material in the production of construction materials, paper, etc.) from the waste of electricity production, the oil shale ash. PCC produced from oil shale ash is sustainable as it avoids limestone mining and the following CO₂-intensive PCC production. In the first phase of the project, 2025-2035 the focus will be on refining the technology and using fresh ash to produce 0.5 million tons of PCC annually by valorising 1 million ton of ash. This will help avoid further depositing of new ash waste and related environmental issues. In the second stage (starting 2035) the goal of the project is to use the deposited ashes, scaling the production of PCC to 7.5 million tons annually. With mentioned production capacity, there will be enough raw material available for at least next 40 years. The project will generate 50+ direct jobs.

2. Eesti Energia AS:

- a. Converting one of the blocks of the Baltic Power Plant in Narva to biomass. Total investment need: 50-80 mln €. Number of jobs protected: ca 150.
- b. Converting Auvere Power Plant to biomass. Total investment need: 60-100 mln €. Number of jobs protected: ca 200.
- c. Building a Pumped hydroelectric power station on the grounds of the Baltic Electricity Plant or Auvere Electricity Plant. Total investment need: 40-100 mln €. Number of jobs created: ca 25, plus ca 400 temporary jobs during the construction process.
- d. Hydrogen production and end-use in gas infrastructure and heavy transport. The project is possible to implement either immediately by connecting the Narva Ash Fields wind farm to electrolyzers or by adding electrolyzers to the Baltic Power Plant or the Auvere Power Plant, once they are converted to biomass. Total investment need: 30-60 mln €. Number of jobs protected: TBC.
- e. Launch of an employee retraining programme in co-operation with the Virumaa College of TalTech and the Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Center. The programme would include study of IoT (Internet of Things) and an establishment of a hydrogen storage competence center. Total investment need: 5-20 mln €.
- f. Establishment of a Renewable Energy Maintenance Center. Employees leaving the oil shale sector would be eligible to join the Center upon retraining: production managers, engineers, heads of the maintenance and repairs who already have higher professional training would receive training as wind farm managers and regional managers; operators and others would be eligible to work as maintenance engineers and specialists. In total, about 150 employees could receive retraining.

3. Aquaphor International OÜ

- a. An extension of an existing facility by an existing company, producing water filters.

The list will be expanded by final submission.

Exhaustive list of investments to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC

To be elaborated by final submission.

Synergies and complementarities with other relevant Union programmes

When programming the use of the JTF, activities funded through other structural funds and national programmes for the period 2021-2027, including REACT-EU, the Restructuring Facility (RRF) and the ETS trading revenue have been taken into account. In this TJTP it is proposed to only finance such measures that have no nationally planned analogues or do have analogues, but their volume is insufficient to support a truly just transition for Ida-Virumaa. The cumulative impact of all measures covered by all the different funding sources, including special solutions and major projects directed

to Ida-Virumaa financed from other sources, will be reflected in the implementation plan of the Ida-Virumaa Action Plan 2015-2030.

Synergies and complementarities with other pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism

To be elaborated by final submission.

Sectors and areas to be supported under pillars 2 and 3 of the Just Transition Mechanism

To be elaborated by final submission.

3. GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

3.1. Partnership

Text field [5000]

In accordance with the Article 6 of the new CPR, in preparing this TJTP Estonia has organised and implemented a comprehensive partnership taking into account the specificities of the JTF.

On the national level, the Ministry of Finance established a **Steering Committee** for the preparation and monitoring of the TJTP. The Steering committee includes 18 main stakeholders: relevant ministries, the Association of Local Authorities of Ida-Viru County (*IVOL*) and other regional bodies, representatives of employers, employees, SMEs, environmental NGOs, universities etc. The steering committee also acts as a working group under the Monitoring Committee (according to Art 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation 240/2014). On the regional level, *IVOL* established a regional **Just Transition Platform**, bringing together 52 regional and other stakeholders. In addition, other „soft“ networking structures (regional science council, education and tourism clusters etc.) provide input for both the TJTP and the regional development strategy.

We intend to integrate necessary capacity building activities of both partners and beneficiaries of the JTF into the interventions listed in chapter 2.4. However, there are several administrative capacity related needs that we intend to support under JTF Technical Assistance, namely:

- Dedicated communication focusing on the Russian-speaking beneficiaries / community;
- Empowering the main regional coordinating body – *IVOL* – in securing efficient information flows and assistance to beneficiaries for project preparation / coordination and increasing the transition-related knowledge among regional partners;
- Providing opportunities for *IVOL* and the beneficiaries to participate in EU-wide just transition networks, best practice sharing and skills development activities;
- Increasing the capacity of main societal stakeholders (trade unions, business and environmental organisations) for active participation in the just transition process.

Outcome of public consultation

In addition to setting up the Steering Committee and the regional Just Transition Platform, diverse **public consultation activities** – incl. public seminars, written consultations, focus groups, discussions with stakeholders, public communication and information dissemination etc. – were carried out during the preparation of this TJTP.

In the summer of 2020, a public **opinion poll** was carried out, aiming to gauge local residents' satisfaction with the region's current state and validating future development needs. The poll yielded over 1,500 responses. According to the poll, half of the respondents were satisfied with the natural environment of Ida-Viru and the diversity of places to visit; almost a third was also satisfied with the region's cultural diversity, public spaces, educated and hard-working people, transport connections. Job creation, development of the business environment and competitive wages were the most frequently mentioned development needs. In transitioning to a new economy, finding new functions

for unused mining and industrial sites, developing the industrial sector and creating new companies were deemed most important areas of focus.

According to the poll, **the youth** (persons under 30 years of age) diverge in their responses from the mainstream perception of Ida-Viru's development needs and objectives: they are less satisfied with the region's sites, educated and hard-working people, cultural diversity and public spaces, and more satisfied with an active and frugal local community and local public services. In prioritizing development objectives, the youth consider it important to invest in renewable energy, while industrial development, exploitation of new mineral resources, the modernization of the oil shale industry and creation of new companies seem less important. In a series of dedicated focus-groups it became apparent that the youth consider the man-made environment of Ida-Viru outdated and opportunities for active transport modes lacking; they value friendliness and kindness – qualities they struggle to see in the current older generation – and see their future in jobs that require interacting with people or are creative (incl. the IT sector).

3.2. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring of the JTF interventions will be taking place continuously throughout the implementation period in accordance with the indicators outlined in chapter 2.5.

There will also be two overarching evaluations: a preliminary assessment will be prepared during year 2023 and carried out in 2024; the final assessment will be prepared during 2029 and carried out in 2030. Both assessments will address the progress of the JTF, but will also take into account the projects within the II and III pillars of the JTM, projects within the scope of Policy Objective 5 (Estonia closer to citizens) that take place specifically in Ida-Virumaa, as well as other measures directed specifically at Ida-Virumaa. This approach will guarantee that the JTF is analysed in complementarity with other actions.

3.3. Coordination and monitoring body / bodies

In case of the JTF in Estonia, implementing bodies (i.e. 2nd level intermediate bodies) will be the same as in case of structural funds interventions, so the Structural Funds OP Monitoring Committee will be the body responsible for coordination and monitoring the implementation of the JTF. All relevant ministries and main national umbrella partner organisations (labour unions, business organisations, environmental organisations, association of local governments, academia etc.) are members of the Monitoring Committee. The JTF Steering Committee (described above) will act as a working group under the Monitoring Committee.

4. PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC OUTPUT OR RESULT INDICATORS

Programme-specific indicators are only envisaged for actions regarding local government investments in JTF-eligible areas and support for regional initiatives amplifying the just transition. Both of these actions allow applicants to prepare a wider range of operations and therefore require programme-specific indicators to avoid using multiple indications with a very limited number of operations corresponding to each output or result indicator.

Table 164: Output indicators

Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
JTF	RCO 01	Enterprises supported	Nr of enterprises	TBC	TBC
JTF	RCO 02	Enterprises supported by grants	Nr of enterprises	TBC	TBC
JTF	RCO 04	Enterprises with non-financial support	Nr of enterprises	TBC	TBC
JTF	RCO 10	Enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Nr of enterprises	TBC	TBC
JTF	EECO 11	Total number of participants	Nr of participants	TBC	TBC
JTF	RCO 22	Additional production capacity for renewable energy	MW	TBC	TBC
JTF	RCO 38	Surface area of rehabilitated land supported	ha	TBC	TBC
JTF	N/A	Volume of investments	euro	TBC	TBC
JTF	N/A	Number of participating organisations	Nr of organisations	TBC	TBC

Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
JTF	RCR 01	Jobs created in supported entities	Nr of jobs	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 02	Private investments matching public support	euro	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 03	Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	Nr of enterprises	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 04	SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation	Nr of enterprises	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 05	SMEs innovating in-house	Nr of enterprises	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Nr of jobs	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	EECR 03	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Nr of participants	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / Statistics Estonia	
JTF	EECR 04	Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Nr of participants	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / Statistics Estonia	

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JTF	RCR 29	Estimated greenhouse gas emissions	t CO _{2eq}	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	RCR 52	Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or other uses	ha	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	N/A	Public services with improved quality	Nr of services	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	
JTF	N/A	Additional funding raised by participating organisations	euro	0	2021	TBC	SFOS / project reports	