In 2018, the Government allocated additional funds to local governments to increase the wages of preschool institution teachers to 97.8% of the minimum wage. In 2019, additional payments will be received by those local governments that increased the wages of preschool institution teachers to 99% of the wages of teachers and to the same level of minimum wage earned by teachers of general education schools of the preschool institution teacher has a master's degree. Almost all local governments increased the wages.

The average wage of teachers in municipal schools has increased by more than 40% over the past five years. While in 2014, the average wage of teachers in municipal schools was 1,025 euros, it increased by 1,675 euros by 2018 (initial data). The average wage of teachers in municipal schools amounted to 1,131% of the 2018 average wage of Estonia.

102 teachers received beginner’s allowance in 2018. In 2018, support specialists in schools (speech therapists, special education teachers, school psychologists, social educators) also started to receive beginner’s allowance in addition to teachers. 24 support specialists received beginner’s allowance in 2018.

Improving subject levels is continued, i.e. their better integration with the principles of the general part of the national curricula and thereby the optimisation of study load.

Ongoing activities. Funding decisions based on activity projects of universities engaged in teacher training were made in 2018. In the autumn of 2017, the projects were evaluated by external experts. In 2018, the first projects were finished and the second project round for developing competence centres was carried out, taking into account the mid-term evaluation report and the results of earlier projects.

In 2018, a study was implemented to identify the principles of the curricula and methods of refresher training based on the model for the teacher.

In 2018, 6,156 students were engaged in the preschool education of the Estonian language. In the same year, 728 graduates graduated, 36 cancelled, and 48 continued their studies (the total numbers from vocational and higher education). A seminar supporting the advanced language studies for teachers was organised to share content and experiences. In 2018, educational institutions started to pay more attention to the quality of advanced language studies and define sustainability in advanced language studies. The teachers who have participated in the language studies projects are cooperating with each other and sharing experiences, preparing for future calls for proposals.

The area was analysed in 2017 and an action plan was developed, which, among others, included preparing a procurement to acquire study materials. In 2018, the focus was on moving from a preschool institution to a general education school and restoring the relevant curricula to ensure a more seamless transition. The refresher training of teachers was also continued. From 1 September 2018, the Ministry of Education and Research initiated the pilot action "Professional Estonian teacher in a Russian-medium group" in 10 preschool institutions in Tallinn and 11 in Ida-Viru County. 53 new Estonian-speaking teachers were recruited to the preschool institutions. The wages, teaching aids, and training of those teachers are supported by the state. An activity plan was developed, which will continue until 2023 and it will be carried out in three schools from the 7th grade. The programme will include all students of all participating schools studying in the 7th grade in the academic year of 2017/18. An interim analysis will be carried out in 2020.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n.</th>
<th>1. <strong>Integral planning of post-lower secondary study slots in general and vocational education, based on regional forecasters and characteristics</strong></th>
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<th>Ministry of Education and Research</th>
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<td>o.</td>
<td>2. <strong>Recognition of the network of upper secondary schools and starting the investments programme with a view to improving the quality of the entire school network</strong></td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>p.</td>
<td>3. <strong>Reviewing the proportions of funding provided to different types of education, with emphasis on effectiveness</strong> (incl. applying performance financing component in vocational education)</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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**II. Supporting the educational path and career choices of young people to increase students’ awareness of the working world and reduce the number of school dropouts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n.</th>
<th>a. <strong>Developing a competence-based system of forecasting labour needs including the need for foreign labour (incl. review of OSKA methodology and a concept of methodology and implementation for the period 2020+)</strong></th>
<th>x</th>
<th>x</th>
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<th>Ministry of Education and Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>o.</td>
<td>b. <strong>Development of a professional qualification system to promote a bridging between the worlds of education and work</strong></td>
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<td>p.</td>
<td>c. <strong>Promoting adult education with the aim of increasing the formal education participation of adults who have not completed secondary education, providing in-service training and increasing participation in lifelong learning</strong></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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<td>q.</td>
<td>d. <strong>Development of work-based learning in vocational education; additional apprenticeship opportunities are being created and traineeship systems for vocational and higher educational institutions are being developed</strong></td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>r.</td>
<td>e. <strong>Developing the activities of the Estonian Language Houses and expanding the opportunities to learn Estonian for adults with native languages other than Estonian</strong></td>
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<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
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<td>s.</td>
<td>f. <strong>Analysis of support services required for specialists/families returning to Estonia</strong></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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**Ongoing activities:** Students of both general education and vocational institutions, as well as adult students are considered when planning student places of state upper secondary schools in larger cities and county centres. Vocational educational institutions have planned student places for accepting up to 40% of the graduates from basic schools. All counties apart from Hiiu county (due to lack of interest) have student places for vocational secondary education curricula. Owing to the consolidation of the school network, the options are limited for basic school graduates from Järva and Põlva county, where schools specialised in forestry and gardening are located.

**Continued activity:** Adjustment of the network of schools and the establishment of state upper secondary schools are being carried out. In the academic year 2018/2019, 15 state upper secondary schools operate in Estonia, three of which (in Võru, Rapla, and Paide) began operating on 1 September 2018. On 1 September 2019, a new state upper secondary school began working in Kohila Järve. Preliminary agreements regarding the establishment of state upper secondary schools have been made with the cities of Rakvere, Narva, and Tallinn as well as with the rural municipalities of Saunima, Halje, Iisaku, and Rõsa. The objective is to establish a state upper secondary school in at least each county and larger city. Twelve local municipalities that had organised their school network received support for basic schools from the second round of the measure “Organisation of the basic school network in 2014–2020.” Measures to support schools for children with special needs and for inclusive education were also opened in 2018.

**From 2018, a new funding model was introduced to vocational education, which increases funding for vocational institutions. The funding of vocational institutions from the state budget will be based on an operating subsidy which is divided into basic and performance-based funding. The basic funding is fixed for three years and ensures stability to carry out the tasks designated to the schools. The basic funding took effect in 2018. Performance-based funding is based on the performance indicators of vocational institutions, highlighting their outstanding achievements and improving their cooperation with local businesses. Performance-based funding will take effect in 2019.**

**The development of OSKA 2020+, Estonia’s system of labour market monitoring and future skills forecasting is in progress, which is intended to consolidate duplicate mechanisms into a complete entity. The concept provides the implementation of the current skills forecasting system OSKA after the end of the corresponding ESF programme, from 2020. The updated model is planned to be finished in the first half of 2019. In 2018, CEDEFOP’s project “Governance of EU skills anticipation and matching systems in-depth country reviews” was initiated. As a result, recommendations will be presented in the first half of 2019 for further development of the skills analysis and provision system.**

**In 2018, 16,410 people improved their skills in free-of-charge refresher trainings. 16 projects from the ESF call for proposals “Returning adults with a low level of education into formal education acquired within the adult education system and supporting participation in learning” received subsidies in 2018, amounting to 2,678,852 euros. Awareness-raising activities were carried out, conditions that support learning were established, and support services for remaining in education and successfully graduating were created. Trainings on the topics of quality, evaluation, and consultation of the VOTA system and several development seminars were held to develop the VOTA system in adult education institutions. 7 projects received funding amounting to 1,077,549 euros in total in 2018 to develop key competencies.**

**Within the framework of development of higher education traineeship system, finding traineeship places for foreign students is also supported.**

**The substantial activities of the Estonian language houses in Narva and Tallinn began in the second half of 2016, with the aim of supporting the development of high-quality studies of Estonian as a foreign language and contribute to better integration of the society. The task of these houses is to organise free Estonian language courses and activities that would enable practising Estonian. Physically, the Estonian language house in Tallinn opened in January 2019. The Estonian language house in Narva will be opened in 2019. In 2018, the activities were carried out in temporary locations. The Estonian language houses will continue to operate in 2020 and in the future.**

**The Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Research is conducting the analysis of support services required to encourage people to return.**
a. The provision of services within the framework of youth guarantee measures for young people aged between 16 and 25 in order to provide working, education and training opportunities (the “First job” support scheme combined with training measures to involve and activate youth not active in employment, education or training) x x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research

The Youth Guarantee measures have been developed and the provision of services started in January 2015. The support measure for NEETs was started in 2015. Activities of the Youth Guarantee in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Research: a) support services to 15–26-year-old NEETs are offered in the course of the Youth Prop-Up programme aimed at NEETs; b) students from upper secondary schools can have an internship at a local non-governmental organisation in the course of the community internship programme; c) carrying out own-initiative ideas of young people is supported, allowing youths to apply for funding for a project/idea they would like to carry out in their community; d) the summer job programme gives the young people the chance to receive primary work experience, familiarises themselves with different fields of work and work-related legislation; e) young people are introduced to various jobs in the metal and timber sector and nursery, medical laboratory science, and youth worker professions in the framework of the vocational laboratories course of action. Activities of the Youth Guarantee in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs: a) in the framework of the My First Job service, employers are paid wage subsidy and training costs are compensated if they employ young people with not much work experience; target group young people who are 16–26 years old. Starting from 2015, 2,125 young people have been employed under the service (a total of 1,017 in 2018) and costs for work-related training were compensated in 205 cases (a total of 93 times in 2018); b) workshops introducing the labour market aims to increase awareness among young people on how the labour market operates, what should be considered when seeking employment and planning a career, and what options there are to receive assistance related to the labour market, if necessary. From 2015, 6,375 workshops have been carried out (3,742 in 2018).

b. Ensuring cancer services for young people at lower and upper secondary levels as well as higher education levels x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

The provision of cancer services was regulated in 2018 to standardise cancer services aimed at young people provided by different institutions and to decrease disparities. Cancer counselling previously provided by the Regional Centre of Family Innovos, and cancer counselling and cancer information services provided by the Unemployment Insurance Fund were joined. From 1 January 2015, the Unemployment Insurance Fund is providing the cancer counselling and cancer information service. In addition to the service of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, young people at the highest education level also have access to cancer counselling in cancer centres in universities.

c. Development and testing of the youth guarantee support system to identify young people who are inactive without a reason, including NEET youths, with the help of state registers and offering them help to continue their studies or to move into the labour market x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In 2018, the Youth Guarantee support system was created, which compiles a list for local governments of young people in their area who potentially need assistance (who do not work or study) based on register data, to offer them support in returning to the education system or employment. By the end of 2018, 50 local governments had used the system and nearly 400 young people had been contacted. During the first observation (June–October 2018), 26% (162) of the young people who were contacted needed assistance in continuing their education or seeking employment.

d. Support for employers in providing short-term work opportunities for underage youth x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

From 1 January 2018, employers who hire young people aged 13–16 can apply for the support for working adolescents from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The aim of the subsidiary is to expand employment options for minors and help them acquire work habits and experience. The subsidy is paid retroactively for the previous calendar year. In 2018, the subsidiary was paid to 298 employers for 4,027 underage employees.

III. Developing entrepreneurship and other key competences

a. Implementation of a study concept developing entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial studies at all education levels and across all educational fields; the creation of methodology and study materials needed to ensure all students have an opportunity to take entrepreneurial studies x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

The entrepreneurship competence model and modules for entrepreneurship studies (16 modules) for all levels and types of education have been developed and piloted. Refresher trainings for business teachers are being conducted, supervising student companies as well as the pre-incubation EmergeInnov School initiative are supported, studies are carried out, and the public is notified of the necessity of entrepreneurship studies. As at the end of 2018, 367 schools, including 59% of all general education institutions, 84% of vocational educational institutions, and 96% of higher education institution participated in the programme with the aim of implementing entrepreneurship studies. 58% of the educational institutions (218 schools) that participated in the programme have implemented the entrepreneurship studies module, including 190 general education institutions, 17 vocational educational institutions, and 11 higher education institutions.

b. More active involvement of entrepreneurs in the development of training objectives and definition of learning outcomes for different types of schools x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

Ongoing activities. Involvement of entrepreneurs is an important topic throughout the lifelong learning strategy (goal No. 1 “A change in the approach to learning”, goal No. 3 “The concordance of lifelong learning opportunities with the needs of the labour market”). The activities are involved in the preparation of sectoral overviews of the labour market monitoring and future skills forecasting system OSKA via expert groups.

4. Increasing international competitiveness of higher education

a. SF programme “Higher education speciality scholarships for smart specialisation growth areas” x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

The payment of speciality scholarships for smart specialisation at the first and second level of higher education started in the middle of the 2015/16 academic year. Every year, the higher education institutions receive a quota for scholarship recipients and a total of nearly 8,000 first and second level students had received the scholarship by the end of the 2018/19 academic year. No problems can be foreseen for the utilisation of the first and second level speciality scholarship activity. A total of 118 doctoral candidates received the doctoral allowance in the 2018/19 academic year.

b. SF programme “Intentional development programmes for research and development institutions and higher education institutions” x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

The activities of the measures are divided in two parts – investments in houses and substantial activities to improve the quality of studies and research. The Government of the Republic confirmed the investments on 9 June 2016. On 25 January 2019, the Ministry of Education and Research submitted an amendment to the investments plan, granting additional subsidies to the Estonian Academy of Arts, the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences with relation to increased costs of investment projects for study buildings and additional requirements. The construction or renovation of 7 research and study buildings is supported with 58.9 million euros in total. 7 million euros is spent on substantial activities. Carrying out structural reconstructions of universities, activities aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the quality of studies and research, improvement of the quality of doctoral studies, activities aimed at the improvement of international competitiveness, and increasing cooperation between research and development institutions, higher education institutions, and businesses are considered substantial activities. Two projects were finished in 2017, three were in the 2018–2020, one project in 2021, and the remaining 14 projects will be finished in 2022.

c. SF measure “Facilitating the internationalisation of research and higher education” x x x x x x Ministry of Education and Research

Data on the programme for internationalising mobility, and the next generation of higher education will be continued. In 2018, the learning mobility of 830 junior researcher fellows and master’s students (up to 30 days) and the learning mobility of 99 doctoral candidates (1–10 months) was supported. In addition, the studies of 388 foreign master’s students and 102 foreign doctoral candidates in Estonia and 68 doctoral candidates’ visit to Estonian higher education institutions were supported. The figures have improved compared to 2017 and will most likely be fulfilled by the end of the period.
### 4. Increasing the impact of active labour market policy and sustainability of financing

#### a. Implementation of the work capacity reform (including creating a system for assessing work capacity, the provision of services to the target group, the necessary information exchange IT solutions for implementing the activities and condition for providing grants "The provision of labour market services to the work capacity reform target group" and "Increasing the work capacity of the work capacity reform target group and promoting their work")

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<td>The development and outreach activities required to ensure the sustainability of the new work ability support system are in progress and analyses are carried out to check the effectiveness of the system and detect areas which require further development. The TVR financial model (2017–2020 framework agreement) will be developed to ensure the financial sustainability of the new work ability support system. The productivity, effectiveness, and impact of participating in labour market services aimed at people with decreased work ability are analysed and the services are developed or amended as necessary. Services to prevent persistent loss of capacity for work are developed. The fulfillment of goals set with the TVR and the purposeful operation of the method for assessing work ability are analysed and development activities are planned as necessary. The awareness of the target group is increased and cooperation is conducted with the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People to provide a counselling service to support the people in the work ability evaluation process. Providing information will continue to raise awareness on the new work ability system and integrate people with reduced work ability into working life and society. In 2020, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation measures of the new work ability support system is conducted to prepare a plan for implementing the measures in the future and a funding plan based on previous results and knowledge. In order to ensure that there are doctors with relevant skills to provide work ability evaluation services to the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the University of Tartu provided work ability evaluation training to 218 doctors in 2016–2018. The work ability evaluation trainings will be continued as required in 2019–2020 and new procurements will be organised for 2019. In 2018, more detailed work ability evaluation guidelines were prepared in cooperation with specialist associations to facilitate the work ability evaluation of people with sensory disabilities by medical experts. The Ministry of Social Affairs organised a seminar for the medical experts on using the guidelines at the beginning of 2019. According to the plans for 2019, the application form for evaluating work ability and principles for using conditions excluding work ability will be commodified and information systems developed (self-service of the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the patient portal) to facilitate filling in and submitting the work ability evaluation applications.</td>
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<td>To better integrate the systems and services, the services offered currently have been mapped and the overlapping services and differences between systems have been analysed. Two pilot projects have been launched (a pilot project concerning people that have acquired schizophrenia for the first time, ICF pilot project) and three audits to assess the quality and overlapping of the rehabilitation system. A comprehensive mapping will be initiated to create the basis for better exchange of information between the systems.</td>
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<td>For projects from the first call for proposals conducted in 2016 will be funded from the ESF budget in the amount of 2.3 million euros, which will be added cost-sharing of the applicants (at least 15%). The projects of the first round commenced in the first part of 2017 and the activities will run for up to two years. The second local authorities' open call for proposals will be announced in spring 2018. In both rounds, the development and provision of family service, support personnel service, personal helper service, and general care services offered outside of home (daily care or interval care service) will be supported. The third open call for proposals for a large circle of applicants (in addition to local authorities, applicants are other providers of services – institutions administrated by the local authorities as well as private companies) for the development and provision of social services will be opened in the first half of 2019. In the second half of 2018, the development of social transport through public transportation centre was piloted. Saimaa regional municipality government, Kagu Ühistranspordikeskus and Pärnu Ühistranspordikeskus will provide services in 2019 as part of the pilot project for the provision of social transport services.</td>
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<td>A hackathon was carried out in the framework of the structural funds measure &quot;Welfare measures supporting labour market participation&quot; (2nd half of 2017) and an open call for proposals was announced (1st half of 2018) to inspire the creation of innovative ideas for implementation and support the development of the best ideas into effective solutions. The small allocation scheme will accept applications on an ongoing basis until the end of 2019 or until budgetary resources are depleted. The second call for proposals of the main allocation scheme is planned to open in the 2nd half of 2019.</td>
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<td>The Government of the Republic endorsed the unemployment prevention measures at their meeting on 17 November 2016. From 1 July 2017, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund started offering labour market training and a grant for participating in higher education to employed persons. In addition, employers are entitled to apply for a training grant to develop the skills of their employees. Amendments to the conditions of applying preventive measures became valid from 1 June 2018. In addition to employees working under an employment agreement and civil servants, persons working under a contract for services, authorisation agreement, or another agreement entered into for the provision of a service became eligible for grants for participating in higher education and for labour market training. In addition, the income limit below which the employee had to earn—that was the condition for being eligible for the training—was raised from median income to average wage, expanding the circle of people who were entitled to receive the training. The conditions for compensating for the Estonian language courses of their employed employees were made simpler for employers.</td>
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<td>In 2018, the Ministry of Social Affairs began preparations for changing the Estonian unemployment benefit system. The project has three main objectives: 1) to reduce the poverty of the unemployed; 2) to make the system of unemployment benefits more flexible; 3) to evaluate changes in the conditions for payment of unemployment benefits depending on the economic context. By the end of March 2019, the impact study prepared by the Praxis Centre for Policy Studies will be completed, proposing changes to the Estonian unemployment benefit system. By the end of 2019, after the completion of the Praxis analysis, the Ministry of Social Affairs will prepare a development intention. We plan to develop the draft legislation in 2020.</td>
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<td>The Diverse Workplace label concept (instead of the distinguishing sign, the principles of granting it, and its effect and communication plan) were finished under the leadership of the Human Rights Centre in April 2017. 17 organisations received the first Diverse Workplace labels at the Diverse Workplace label conference held in March 2018. The Human Rights Centre coordinated the activities for implementing the ideal concept until 15 May 2018. Activities to implement the Diverse Workplace label model will be continued in 2019 and 2020. The next Diverse Workplace labels will be granted in 2020.</td>
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<td>The integration of the physical therapy and rehabilitation systems into a single consumer-centred whole system in order to offer timely and smoothly functioning services</td>
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<td>Provision of social services to support the participation of people with special needs, and the burden of care on the labour market (Structural funds measure “Welfare measures to support participation in the labour market”) and improvement of the quality of social services</td>
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<td>Use of innovative solutions in the development and provision of social services</td>
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<td>Provision of in-service training and re-training services to employed people to prevent or reduce unemployment</td>
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<td>Creating and implementing a national &quot;Diverse Workplace&quot; sign to recognise the companies that promote diversity and equality</td>
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The provision of career counselling services to people of the working age (“SF measures “Developing the competencies of the adult population”, Action “Working age individuals who have received cancer counselling”)”, Ministry of Social Affairs, x x x x x

In 2014, the conditions for giving support for the measure “Increase the availability of labour market services for employers” were proposed, providing labour market services to employed and inactive persons. 20 additional career counsellor positions were created for the Unemployment Insurance Fund in January 2015 to provide career counselling services to employed and inactive persons. The provision of this service started on 1 February 2015. From the beginning of the provision of the service, career counselling has been offered 48,477 times (108,833 counselling sessions in 2018).

To provide measures for helping members of older age find employment x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In 2014, the conditions for giving support for the measure “Better opportunities for participation in employment” were confirmed, providing labour market services to persons of retirement age. The activities started on 1 January 2015. During 2018, there were 181 service agreements with the measure aimed at persons of retirement age and a total of 322 service agreements from the beginning of 2015. The largest proportion of persons of retirement age required labour market training along with support for receiving a qualification to find employment (72 persons participated in the relevant measures in 2018). From 2015, 426 job seekers of retirement age have received labour market training and 71 support for receiving a qualification, 9 have received a business start-up grant, and 42 persons required the internship service. Follow-up services (refresher training, individual counselling and mentorship) were provided four times.

Authorising the Labour Inspectorate to monitor the remuneration and benefits paid by public sector employers to men and women for equal work or work of equal value x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

The Government of the Republic approved a draft to amend the Gender Equality Act in August 2018 to decrease the gender pay gap, wishing to establish a more effective system to analyse the gender pay gap. The aim of this draft is also to enable employers to analyse the wages paid to men and women more effectively, using a consistent digital solution. The Labour Inspectorate is granted additional rights to exercise supervision over adherence to and implementation of the equal pay principle in the public sector.

Development of a digital gender analysis tool for employers x x Ministry of Social Affairs

The digital analysis tool will be developed in 2019–2020 with the aim of providing a tool for employers for gender-based analysis of staff data, in particular, to provide an overview of the implementation of equal treatment and gender equality commitment within the organisation and to find solutions to address the identified inequalities. Special attention is paid to the principle of “equal pay”. The tool will be developed and introduced in collaboration with representatives of employers and employees.

Regular gender pay gap auditors in the public sector within the public service annual report each spring x x x x x Ministry of Finance

An overview of gender pay gap in public service by authorities will be presented in the public service annual report each spring.

Assessment and comparison guidelines supporting the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In order to support the introduction of transparent wage systems based on objective criteria and the payment of equal pay for women and men for equal work, guidelines for the evaluation and comparison of work will be developed.

Increasing the knowledge about stereotypic career choices for schoolchildren through career days for boys and girls and through primary and high school subjects “Cancer education” x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research

An elective subject career studies is offered in 157 general educational institutions (as at 29 August 2020). For Estonia will be developed. A contract was concluded with the partner for 14 August 2018 – 14 August 2020.

Increasing the regional labour supply (SF measures “Better opportunities for participating in employment”) x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In the first half of 2019, a service for increasing regional labour force provision in the framework of the conditions for giving support to the measure “Better opportunities to participate in employment” was developed, the mobility grant started in 2016. From 2019, the mobility grant is no longer offered to new applicants. An analysis to evaluate the impact of the service was conducted. Regional measures that include a training component with wage subsidies are offered in Ida-Virumaa and counties in South-East Estonia, where unemployment is considerably higher than the Estonian average, to increase the provision of regional labour force.

Reducing the unexplained part of the gender pay gap x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In January 2019, a research project to reduce the unexplained part of the gender pay gap began. The aim of the study is to improve the knowledge about the pay gap, obtain more detailed information about the reasons for the unexplained part (accounting for 85% of the pay gap), and scientifically develop the tools and potential solutions (innovation data with low administrative burden, methodology for combining existing data sources, prototypes of digital solutions), which would support the reduction of the gender pay gap in Estonia in the long run. For the first time, wage dynamics will be analysed over life cycles, the role of expectations and values in how the pay gap is generated is introduced, and innovative machine learning and classical data mining methods are applied to analyse the workforce data. The study will run from 2019 to 2021.

Reducing gender segregation and thereby, the pay gap x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In the spring of 2019, an applied research project will be launched with the task of developing and piloting techniques to increase the proportion of women in ICT education and the labour market. The study lasts for a total of 18 months and as a result, recommendations are made for future use of the techniques to reduce horizontal segregation. The study also contributes to reducing the gender pay gap by reducing segregation. The study is funded 50% by the Estonian Research Council and 50% by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Analysis and proposals on the extension of health insurance coverage x x Ministry of Social Affairs

An analysis of health insurance coverage of Estonia’s residents was finished. The results of the analysis will be used and will form the basis for discussions and further decisions of the government.

Introducing the cross-border recruitment opportunities opened up by the updating of EURES, the EU’s job mobility portal, to job seekers and employers x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

With the amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act (entry into force 20 January 2019), the provision delegating authority for being accepted as a member and partner of the network of employment services and development of the conditions and procedures for the cooperation became valid. The draft regulation of the Minister of Health and Labour for this is being coordinated. After this, members and partners interested in joining the EURES network can start submitting applications to join. The applications will be processed by the Unemployment Insurance Fund, who is also a member of the network as a state employment service and also performs the functions of a national coordination office.

Analysis and proposals for modernising long-term care arrangements and policies for people with special needs x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

In December 2018, the Ministry of Social Affairs presented a concept to the Government of the Republic for the establishment of a uniform long-term care system in Estonia, based on the policy guidelines developed by the Task Force on Reforming Care Services (approved by the Government of the Republic in December 2017).

Care coordination pilot project x x Ministry of Social Affairs

Based on the suggestions made by the care load task force, a pilot project of care coordination will be launched in six Estonian regions in 2018. The objective of the pilot project is to create human-centred and coordinated care organisation for people with extensive and complex care needs.

Development of volunteer activities in social sector x x Ministry of Social Affairs

To promote the creation of a practice of targeted involvement and using volunteers in the care system, a pilot project will be conducted in different regions of Estonia in 2018–2019 (nine local authorities in northern Estonia, nine local authorities in southern Estonia), the objective of which is to test the cooperation model between local authorities, care institutions, and volunteer organisations and to develop a pan-Estonian cooperation model for the involvement and using volunteers in the care system based on the results of testing. During the testing, volunteers will help elderly people and people with special needs. As a result of the project, a cooperation model of using volunteers in the care system suitable for Estonia will be developed. A contract was concluded with the partner for 14 August 2018 – 14 August 2020.

II. The development of family policies in order to better reconcile work and family life
The establishment of new preschool institution places and home childcare places in local governments will be supported with the call for proposals carried out in the framework of the measure “Development of home childcare and welfare services for disabled children to decrease the burden of care”. The second call for proposals was opened on 26 February 2018 and 492 new childcare places are being created. Both regular and special childcare places can be established in the second round.

The measure “Sustainable development of urban areas” is implemented in the Tallinn, Tartu, and Parnawa urban areas. Investments into establishing and expanding preschool institution buildings are supported, creating new preschool institution places in the areas. The call for proposals was opened in 2016 and a total of 17 projects amounting to 19 million euros were supported by the end of 2018 that have been used or are being used to create 1,436 new preschool institution places. The processing of new applications will be continued and approximately 800 new preschool institution places may be expected by the end of 2020.

The activities contribute to country-specific recommendation No. 2, as they improve the availability of childcare services, and country-specific recommendation No. 3, as they support local governments in providing public services (childcare, pre-school education, support person).

### 5. Increasing the healthy years of life by improving health-related behaviours and reducing the number of

**1. Reducing the number of injuries and deaths from injuries and improving health related behaviour**

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The activities launched by the injuries task force will be continued and coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

**2. Analyzing and proposals for changing the system of parental leave and parental benefits in order to allow a more flexible combination of work and family life**

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An intention to develop a draft for the Preschool Child Care Institutions Act has been prepared based on the preschool education and childcare concept and discussions with being held with stakeholders to further develop the preschool education field. The propositions for the draft of the Preschool Child Care Institutions Act were discussed in the working group for developing the draft legislation and its meetings took place in December 2018 – March 2019. The draft legislation was submitted to partners for coordination in May 2019. The draft legislation will be submitted to the Government of the Republic and the Riigikogu in September 2019.

The activities contribute to country-specific recommendation No. 2, as they improve the availability of childcare services, and country-specific recommendation No. 3, as they support local governments in providing public services (childcare, pre-school education, support person).

**3. Development of the system of family benefits**

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The family-friendly employer label model has been developed. The family-friendly employer label model is in the process of being implemented and two competitions have been conducted to involve employers.

As at the end of 2018, 2,404 caregivers received support services for disabled children. 17,845,978.13 euros were spent to provide the support services. In the course of the public procurement of providers of support services, 15 procurement partners were found for the county and Tallinn who in turn include partners providing the service.

**4. Development of welfare services for disabled children with the goal of minimizing the caregivers' development restrictions related to the labour market**

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The activities contribute to country-specific recommendation No. 2, as they improve the availability of childcare services, and country-specific recommendation No. 3, as they support local governments in providing public services (childcare, pre-school education, support person).

**5. Implementation of the family-friendly employer sign model**

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The activities contribute to country-specific recommendation No. 2, as they improve the availability of childcare services, and country-specific recommendation No. 3, as they support local governments in providing public services (childcare, pre-school education, support person).

**6. Implementation of the childcare and pre-school education concept**

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As at the end of 2018, funding decisions were made from the 2014–2020 structural support measure “Sustainable development of urban areas” to fund 55 projects for cycle and pedestrian tracks in urban areas and public urban spaces related to sustainable mobility with a funding amount of 29.4 million euros. More than 160 km of cycle and pedestrian tracks will be created. The processing of new applications continues. In addition, funding decisions have been made from the 2014–2020 structural support measure “Increasing regional competitiveness” to build more than 20 roads connecting centres to hinterland, access roads for industrial areas and cycle and pedestrian tracks with a funding amount of approximately 15 million euros.
The Lilika Koore (School Encouraging Physical Activity) programme was born from a cooperation between the University of Tartu, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Education and Research. The project was started in 2016, when a pilot network including ten schools was created. Now, 30 more schools across Estonia have joined and the network therefore includes 40 schools (more than 18,000 pupils). The programme has been well received by the schools and interest towards joining it is increasing. The aim of the programme is to offer schools, pupils, and teachers of Estonia ideas and solutions to decrease the time children and young people are sitting down and increase physical activity throughout the entire school day. The elements of the programme include active lessons and breaks, a school environment which encourages physical activity (including the school’s surroundings), and cooperation with the community. The most long-term goal is to make the programme available for all schools in Estonia. Ongoing activities include creating opportunities to engage in physical activities (including for persons with special needs) and supporting physical activities. The additional support for hobby activities granted to local governments was implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Education and Research partially in 2017 and fully in 2018. Additionally, the employer’s opportunity to compensate for their employees’ sports expenses in an amount up to 400 euros per year without fringe benefits became valid in 2018. The funding for organising sports activities for persons with special needs was increased by 400,000 euros in 2019 and will be increased by 200,000 euros more in 2020 (from 2019, by the Ministry of Culture).
c. Strengthening of the centres of competence in the hospital network (SF measures "Ensuring accessible and high-quality health services in order to promote employment retention, and returning to employment") x x x x x Ministry of Social Affairs

The revision of insolvency was started in the summer and fall of 2016, the activities are ongoing. An intention to develop amendments to the Bankruptcy Act was prepared in 2018 as part of the insolvency revision. A draft to amend the Bankruptcy Act and other acts will be prepared based on the intention to develop the insolvency revision and this is planned to be sent for coordination at the end of June 2019. Among others, there are plans to establish an insolvency institution. A draft should be finished by the end of 2019 with an aim to facilitate the procedures of rehabilitation and debt restructuring. In February 2019, the Riigikogu adopted the act to amend the Code of Enforcement Procedure and other acts related to it (starting procedures on alimony debtors).

d. Implementing the national e-Health strategy in order to use the opportunities provided by ICT development in order to improve public health and develop the healthcare and welfare system x x x x x Government Office, Ministry of Social Affairs

The strategy was approved at the government’s cabinet meeting in December 2015. An implementation plan was prepared in 2016. The e-health strategy council confirmed the high-priority projects in January 2017. The projects are monitored regularly twice a year (January and August). With relation to preparing the National Health Plan 2020–2030, the goals and courses of action of the e-health strategy have been included in the National Health Plan 2020–2030 draft strategy, which is planned to be adopted in 2019.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

6. Formulating a policy to facilitate long-term increases in the international competitiveness of companies

| a. | Increasing the proportion of accepted claims of creditors that are satisfied in bankruptcy proceedings; codification of the right of insolvency | x x x x x Ministry of Justice |

The revision of insolvency was started in the summer and fall of 2016, the activities are ongoing. An intention to develop amendments to the Bankruptcy Act was prepared in 2018 as part of the insolvency revision. A draft to amend the Bankruptcy Act and other acts will be prepared based on the intention to develop the insolvency revision and this is planned to be sent for coordination at the end of June 2019. Among others, there are plans to establish an insolvency institution. A draft should be finished by the end of 2019 with an aim to facilitate the procedures of rehabilitation and debt restructuring. In February 2019, the Riigikogu adopted the act to amend the Code of Enforcement Procedure and other acts related to it (starting procedures on alimony debtors).

| b. | Creation of a bureaucracy-free business form for small businesses – a business account for the sale of services and goods to physical persons or for the sale of goods to legal persons in the maximum amount of 25,000 per year | x x x Ministry of Finance |

A decision to support the project of establishment of the Y block in the SA Põhja-Eesti Regionalhaigla was made (18 September 2017) and the project is being implemented. The planned start and end of the project period is 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2022. A decision to support the project of establishment of the Y block in the SA Põhja-Eesti Regionalhaigla will be submitted in accordance with the approval investments plan on 30 June 2018. The implementation aims of the project is expected to last from the second half of 2017 to the second half of 2023.

| c. | Improving the tax environment for shipping companies | x x | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |

Added pursuant to the Government of the Republic’s action programme. The government presented the draft to the Riigikogu for adoption in the fall of 2018.

| d. | Speeding up bankruptcy and execution proceedings; preparing the amendments to the laws related to bankruptcy and enforcement proceedings | x x x | Ministry of Justice |

The revision of insolvency was started in the summer and fall of 2016, the activities are ongoing. An intention to develop amendments to the Bankruptcy Act was prepared in 2018 as part of the insolvency revision. A draft to amend the Bankruptcy Act and other acts will be prepared based on the intention to develop the insolvency revision and this is planned to be sent for coordination at the end of June 2019. Among others, there are plans to establish an insolvency institution. A draft should be finished by the end of 2019 with an aim to facilitate the procedures of rehabilitation and debt restructuring. In February 2019, the Riigikogu adopted the act to amend the Code of Enforcement Procedure and other acts related to it (starting procedures on alimony debtors).

| e. | Implementation of the Competitiveness 2.0 report (to a certain amount a follow-up of the “Entrepreneur’s Right 2” programme) | x x x x x Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |

In the autumn of 2015, the Ministry of Justice assembled a meeting group comprising entrepreneurs and their organisations and associations to ascertain the areas which require entrepreneurship and require the biggest changes and to make proposals to the state to facilitate entrepreneurship and boost the economy. The members of the steering group submitted 123 proposals for developing the business environment. 64 of these were highlighted in the Competitiveness 2.0 report. Activities which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice – the revision of insolvency and the company law – are being amended too. An intention to develop amendments to the Bankruptcy Act was prepared in 2018 as part of the insolvency revision. A draft to amend the Bankruptcy Act and other acts will be prepared based on the intention to develop the insolvency revision and this is planned to be sent for coordination at the end of June 2019. Among others, there are plans to establish an insolvency institution. A draft should be finished by the end of 2019 with an aim to facilitate the procedures of rehabilitation and debt restructuring. In February 2019, the Riigikogu adopted the act to amend the Code of Enforcement Procedure and other acts related to it (starting procedures on alimony debtors).

| f. | To update the action plan for north-eastern Estonia (Ida-Viru county) with regard to the activities aimed at developing the regional business environment and prepare a similar action plan for south-eastern Estonia | x x x x x Ministry of Finance |

Monitoring and updating the 2015–2020 Action Plans for Ida-Viru county and South-East Estonia have been carried out regularly once a year. The implementation of Ida-Viru county’s programme from the second half of 2018 was decided on at the cabinet meeting of 8 February 2018. The aim of the programme is to boost the economy in Ida-Viru county, increasing the attractiveness of the region’s living environment, slow down the emigration of young people, and decrease the rate at which the region is falling behind other areas of Estonia by giving priority to its development. The programme includes nine different activities. The indicative monetary volume of the programme was 3.8 million euros in 2018 and 4.93 million euros from 2019. The majority of the programme’s funding schemes have been developed and relevant agreements have been entered into with the partners (EVEK Foundation, INSA, Knelli Foundation). The measure with the biggest volume – support measures for industrial investments – has been open for applications since November 2018 and the rest of the measures will also be gradually opened for applications. 3.2 million euros have been allocated with a decision of the Government of the Republic to implement the South-East Estonia programme in 2018–2023. The South-East Estonia’s programme is being finished and the following main support objectives have been planned: Supporting the development of South-East Estonia’s businesses, housing support for specialists in South-East Estonia, and image-building for the South-East Estonia region. The development of the implementation scheme and support measures is continued.

| g. | Physical, social and economic revival of underused city areas by using SF measures “Sustainable development of urban areas in Ida-Viru county” | x x x x x Ministry of Finance |

As at the end of 2018, four funding decisions amounting to slightly over 3.7 million euros have been made from the 2014–2020 structural support measure “Sustainable development of urban areas in Ida-Viru county”. A total of 97,190 square metres of urban space will be renovated in the course of those projects. The processing of new applications continues.
h. To support the development of the business environment by using SF measures “Improving regional competitiveness” and “Development of regional competence centres”  
  
  The activities are ongoing. Implementing the measures of strengthening the competitiveness of regions and developing regional competence centres is going according to plan. Two calls for proposals will finish at the end of 2019 in the implementation of the measure “Development of regional competence centres” – the multi-year call for proposals opened in 2016 and the cooperation round with entrepreneurs opened in 2017. The third and last call for proposals is planned to be opened at the end of 2019 and this would enable to cooperate with entrepreneurs, as well as to support carrying out implementation studies and activities for internationalising the centres. The monetary volume of the support covered by decisions on the underlying calls for proposals is 3,988,555 euros, of which 2,652,712 euros, i.e. 67%, has been paid. As at the end of 2018, two calls for proposals have been carried out for the measure “Strengthening regional competitiveness” in all counties of Estonia. The support decisions have been made and projects are being implemented. The list for the alternative projects was confirmed in October 2018 and the implementation of the alternative call for proposals was started. The first support decisions for the alternative call for proposals have been made and the projects are being implemented. A total of 134 project applications in the Strengthening of Regional Competitiveness measures have received a positive support decision, amounting to 129.5 million euros.

i. Raising the competitiveness of the business environment through cross-border collaboration (EE-LV, EE-RU, The Mid-Baltic Sea programme)  
  
  As at 1 March 2018, altogether 35 cooperation projects with Latvia, Sweden, and Finland within the Estonia-Latvia and Central Baltic Sea programmes have been supported, where the contribution of Estonia’s partners is 12,367,515 euros in total. The objective of the projects is to develop and market common services and goods for third foreign markets, to support cooperation between entrepreneurs of the region and promote young people’s entrepreneurship. The short description of the Estonia-Russia large project “Reconstruction of Saint Petersburg road section – SME-ACCESS” has been approved by the EC with Estonia’s contribution of 1,424,800 euros. The project will improve road infrastructures in the region for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and develop relationships between SMEs in the border region.

j. Developing and implementing a green paper of Estonian industrial policies  
  
The industrial policy document is prepared (2017). Proposals will be taken into consideration when new related development plans are being prepared.

k. Analysis of identifying the owners of public e-Services, and the implementation of relevant proposals  
  
  The analysis document for identifying the owners of public e-Services, and the implementation of relevant proposals has been completed.

l. Analysis and proposals for the creation of an international consortium for the joint development of the basic infrastructure of services  
  
  In July 2017, the Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions was founded for the joint development and management of X-Road and other basic infrastructures with Finland. The joint development of the basic technology of X-Road in Estonia and Finland is underway. The group is promoting e-commerce as part of their counselling, training courses, and mentor clubs’ activities. Hopefully, for the EU geo-blocking regulations enforced in December 2019 are also supporting the cross-border trade, as it forbids the discrimination of the customers within EU based on their citizenship or location. In addition, the renewed VAT directive is about to be implemented, and this standardises the tax exemption for the small parcels dispatched from third countries, therefore promoting the interests of Estonian entrepreneurs at negotiations in the EU about the so-called platform draft legislation.

m. To recognize the importance of socially and environmentally responsible entrepreneurship at the government level and promote socially and environmentally responsible entrepreneurship  
  
  As of 2019, the promoting of e-commerce is done in cooperation of Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development Centres, and the Estonian E-Commerce Association. Regional Development Centres are promoting e-commerce as part of their counselling, training courses, and mentor clubs’ activities. Hopefully, for the EU geo-blocking regulations enforced in December 2019 are also supporting the cross-border trade, as it forbids the discrimination of the customers within EU based on their citizenship or location. In addition, the renewed VAT directive is about to be implemented, and this standardises the tax exemption for the small parcels dispatched from third countries, therefore promoting the interests of Estonian entrepreneurs at negotiations in the EU about the so-called platform draft legislation.

n. We promote the exploitation of e-commerce opportunities  
  
  As of 2019, the promoting of e-commerce is done in cooperation of Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development Centres, and the Estonian E-Commerce Association. Regional Development Centres are promoting e-commerce as part of their counselling, training courses, and mentor clubs’ activities. Hopefully, for the EU geo-blocking regulations enforced in December 2019 are also supporting the cross-border trade, as it forbids the discrimination of the customers within EU based on their citizenship or location. In addition, the renewed VAT directive is about to be implemented, and this standardises the tax exemption for the small parcels dispatched from third countries, therefore promoting the interests of Estonian entrepreneurs at negotiations in the EU about the so-called platform draft legislation.

o. Improvement of supervision to ensure balanced business environment  
  
  The Consumer Protection Board and the Technical Regulatory Authority have been merged. The joint authority (Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority, hereinafter CPTRA) started its work on 1 January 2019. A draft act for amending the Consumer Protection Act has been prepared, which enforces the supervision principles derived from the consumer protection authorities’ cooperation regulation for better protection of the customers in Internet transactions and its implementation plan which specifies the rules of procedure of the Consumer Disputes Committee for improving its work. The implementation term of the regulation is January 2020. For improving the work of the Consumer Disputes Committee, we are also preparing to amend the Consumer Protection Act. During 2019, a survey will be conducted to analyse the relevance of the possible models for solving consumer disputes extrajudicially. The development of the supervisory services of the CPTRA continues, including enhancing the risk assessment skills and improving ICT solutions, also the activities to raise awareness among entrepreneurs and consumers.

p. Analyzing the framework of the employment relationship and making proposals based on it, taking into account the economic and social needs and new opportunities of employers and entrepreneurs  
  
  Services related to a common digital gateway application (continuing)

q. Activities related to a common digital gateway application (continuing)  
  
  Services intended for start-ups, e.g. basic training, county development centres counselling, mentoring clubs, will continue. Furthermore, the setting-up aid is granted under a new concept.

H. Consolidating and simplifying entrepreneurship subsidies; developing and implementing new financing models  

a. Development of a comprehensive entrepreneur’s development programme and creating a supportive implementation model  
  
  The entrepreneurship development programme is continued

b. Implementation of regular reviews of the impacts of entrepreneurship subsidies  
  
  The impact of entrepreneur’s supports is regularly assessed. Interim assessment in 2018.

c. Continuation of the Knud’s measures aimed at the development of entrepreneurship (start-up loans, loan guarantees, subordinated bank loans, technology loans)  
  
  The measures are continued. If necessary, measure conditions are updated.

d. To continue the Enterprise Estonia measures for novice entrepreneurs (basic training, mentoring, etc.)  
  
  The activities are ongoing. Implementing the measures of strengthening the competitiveness of regions and developing regional competence centres is going according to plan. Two calls for proposals will finish at the end of 2019 in the implementation of the measure “Development of regional competence centres” – the multi-year call for proposals opened in 2016 and the cooperation round with entrepreneurs opened in 2017. The third and last call for proposals is planned to be opened at the end of 2019 and this would enable to cooperate with entrepreneurs, as well as to support carrying out implementation studies and activities for internationalising the centres. The monetary volume of the support covered by decisions on the underlying calls for proposals is 3,988,555 euros, of which 2,652,712 euros, i.e. 67%, has been paid. As at the end of 2018, two calls for proposals have been carried out for the measure “Strengthening regional competitiveness” in all counties of Estonia. The support decisions have been made and projects are being implemented. The list for the alternative projects was confirmed in October 2018 and the implementation of the alternative call for proposals was started. The first support decisions for the alternative call for proposals have been made and the projects are being implemented. A total of 134 project applications in the Strengthening of Regional Competitiveness measures have received a positive support decision, amounting to 129.5 million euros.

x x x x x x Ministry of Finance

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In 2017, a new “Business awareness programme” was launched. Enterprise Estonia’s own activities related to export, events designed to improve business awareness and support of enterprises in county development centres are financed within the programme. Training modules for the development of e-business and e-commerce are organised. Projects of e-commerce, product development, and export of representative organisations of enterprises are supported.

**III. Providing support measures to entrepreneurs to facilitate the growth of export capacity and use of export potential**

**a.** To continue the provision of medium and long term export guarantees to an extended target group with a view to increasing the export capacity of Estonian companies

**b.** To launch actions under the entrepreneur’s development programme aimed at export activities

**c.** To continue promoting development and marketing cooperation among companies, in particular in growth areas and directed to more remote markets

**d.** Launch of foreign fair support

**e.** Promotion of service export

**f.** Providing export information services and training, including on more remote target markets, to entrepreneurs

**g.** Launch of activities for 2018–2021 of the action plan for promoting export in food sector

**h.** Estonian organic economy program for 2018–2021

**I. Making Estonia an attractive investment environment**

**a.** To support large-scale investments which are made in Estonia in order to improve local economy

**b.** To continue the activities of the Foundation Ida-Viru County Industrial Areas Development (IIVA)

**c.** Programme for businesses to join infrastructure networks

**d.** To ensure more efficient promotion of investors

**e.** Increasing awareness of Estonia as a state, in order to attract foreign investments, to facilitate entry into foreign markets for Estonian businesses, and to support tourism

**f.** Implementation of important state investments, including the construction of the Tallinn City Hall into an international tourism and conference centre in cooperation with the city of Tallinn

**g.** Enterprise Estonia’s business diplomacy strategy implemented with the aim of increasing the volume of foreign investments and export of Estonian enterprises with targeted and coordinated support by the state (business diplomacy)

**II. Improving the availability of qualified labour necessary for the development of foreign investments and export**

**a.** Developing support services facilitating the adaptation of new immigrants, including an adaptation programme and an information portal

In 2018, the Ministry of Interior continued with the offering and provision of training in the framework of the new immigrants settlement programme launched in 2015 with the aim of supporting the migration process of new immigrants that come to live in Estonia, their quick and smooth adaptation, and acquisition of initial knowledge and skills necessary to cope independently. During the period 2015–2018, there were 4,279 participants in these trainings.

In 2018, the Police and Border Guard Board continued to offer migration counselling, which was made available to the target group in March 2017. In 2018, the counselling was used circa 15,000 times.

In 2018, arranging meetings of the support networks for the new immigrants continued. In 2018, five services were developed:

- the Police and Border Guard Board’s legal counselling service for foreigners;
- creating options for participating in volunteer work for new immigrants and empowering voluntary associations;
- improving the accessibility of family physician service;
- developing the migration statistics service;
- developing the Population Register service.

In 2018, the Police and Border Guard Board continued to offer migration counselling, which was made available to the target group in March 2017. In 2018, the counselling was used circa 15,000 times.
b. Ensuring the availability of labour market information in foreign languages in Estonia

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Social Affairs |

c. Development of the estonia.eu portal to introduce Estonia as an attractive country

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |

d. To implement a plan of action for the Estonian talent policy, with the goal of simplifying the discovery, recruitment, immigration, employment and accreditation of foreign talents

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research |

e. Development of an electronic data exchange related to social insurance between the EU member states, so that people would be assured of rapid solutions for cross-border cases related to social insurance

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Social Affairs |

f. Further 4th stage amendments to the Alien Act for facilitating immigration of foreign labour needed for the development of Estonia’s economy and to increase foreign investments

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of the Interior |

g. Amendments to the Alien Act (a. extending the possible maximum length of short-term working up to 1 year; b. excluding top specialists from the quota)

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of the Interior |

h. A. Compilation of a development programme for the ICT sector, with one of the focuses being on a digital transition in industry

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |

b. The objective of the activity "Strengthening of sectoral research and development" financed from the structural funds is to improve the R&D capability of state authorities, including the creation of sectoral R&D systems and training, the development of central policy monitoring and analytical capabilities, ensuring development of information systems. Most important activities involve supporting applied research that is strategically important for the state and improving the ministries’ competence of research through employment of scientific advisors in the sectorial ministries

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of the Interior |

c. In regard to all of the projects of research and development institutions, to establish the growth of the percentage of the developments of an applied nature to be a priority condition for the use of financing instruments and SF resources

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Education and Research |

d. Increasing the involvement of companies in universities’ applied research

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Education and Research |

e. Developing the capacity of professional associations as commissioners of innovation

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research |

f. Development and implementation of programmes of smart specialisation in growth areas

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research |

g. Launch of the smart specialisation monitoring programme

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research |

h. To set the target of increasing the share of public procurement supporting innovation to 3% of all public procurements by 2020

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance |

i. Product development support “My First Product”

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |

j. Regular collection of additional information from business associations about the needs of sectoral R&D and proposals about how to use it in the financing of sectoral R&D

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Education and Research |

k. Implementation of sectoral research and development programmes

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Education and Research |

l. Introducing an amendment to the law to create opportunities to negotiate to develop the research areas that are strategically important to the state in the framework of the allocation of activity support for research

|   |   |   |   |   | Ministry of Education and Research |

II. Improving the effectiveness of subsidies granted by the state and developing new financing solutions

Continued activity: the web store of the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund and EURES-Estonia make available labour market information and information about working in Estonia in English, also in the Russian language on the website of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

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### II. Developing environments facilitating research and development and innovation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Ministry of Education and Research</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. SF programme &quot;Institutional development programme for R&amp;D institutions and schools of higher education&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>The activities of the measure are divided in two parts – investments in houses and substantial activities to improve the quality of studies and research. The Government of the Republic confirmed the investments on 9 June 2016. On 25 January 2019, the Ministry of Education and Research submitted an amendment to the investments plan, granting additional subsidies to the Estonian Academies of Arts, the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences with relation to increased costs of investment projects for study buildings and additional requirements. The construction or renovation of 47 research and study buildings is supported with 89.9 million euros in total. The construction of most buildings has begun. 71 million euros is spent on substantial activities. Carrying out structural reorganisation of universities, activities aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the quality of studies and research, improvement of the quality of doctoral studies, activities aimed at the improvement of international competitiveness, and increasing cooperation between research and development institutions, higher education institutions, and businesses are considered substantial activities. Two projects were finished in 2017, ten will end in 2019–2020, one project in 2021, and the remaining 14 projects will be finished in 2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. The ToMe++ science communication programme</td>
<td></td>
<td>Continued activity. Estonian Research Council implements the activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. To develop a measure aimed at enterprises to encourage the use of R&amp;D infrastructure, with the aim to increase the interest and possibilities of entrepreneurs in using the R&amp;D infrastructure in the product development process</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Estonian Research Council launched the so-called core infrastructures measure within the institutional research aid scheme. A core infrastructure is infrastructure necessary for conducting research on research topics of the relevant research and development institution that has been created for the public interest and that other persons can use under the terms and conditions set down by the research institution. A core infrastructure is different from other infrastructures of a research and development institution, as it is created due to public interest and is open to other users. In 2019–2020, the use of the infrastructure by businesses will be assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. SF programme &quot;Support to research infrastructures of national importance&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>The first call for proposals has been carried through, the next one will be held in 2019. As the result of the first round, the Government of the Republic approved with its decision supporting 11 projects in the sum of € 19.9 million euros. The implementation authority of the programme is the Archaeological Foundation. The first mid-period assessment of the implemented projects will be held in March 2019. In February 2019, the Government of the Republic approved the list of objects of the roadmap for the Estonian research infrastructure, which is the basis for the next call for proposals of the research infrastructure of national importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Encouraging the internationalisation of Estonian research and higher education</td>
<td></td>
<td>The activities support international cooperation, researchers by post-doctoral researchers, recruitment of foreign researchers and lecturers, returning of Estonians that have studied or worked in foreign countries. These activities are supported through the following (sub)measures: &quot;Institutional development programme for R&amp;D institutions and higher education institutions&quot; and &quot;Internationalisation of research and higher education and support for mobility and the next generation&quot; (&quot;Due Plus&quot; and &quot;Mobiplus Plus&quot;). To promote internationalisation, the activity of Estonian Liaison Offices for EU RTD in Brussels and marketing of higher education and research under the auspices of &quot;Study in Estonia&quot; and &quot;Research in Estonia&quot; will be continued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. To establish a support scheme for involving the development workers in companies that make a significant contribution to employment but currently have low added value</td>
<td></td>
<td>The development voucher measure is still open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. To continue product development grants and the &quot;innovation voucher&quot; grant measure</td>
<td></td>
<td>The innovation voucher measure is still open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Joint the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The preparations to join CERN are in their final stage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Investment of the Research and Development and Innovation system</td>
<td></td>
<td>An assessment was commissioned from the European Commission in 2018. The assessment has begun and the results will be available by autumn 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. A new measure is prepared for the development of innovation and market potential of breaking scientific results (Proof of Concept)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The principles were described in 2018; during 2019, a pilot will be commenced. It is planned to open a call for proposals in April 2019.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV. Improving the availability of early-stage venture capital in order to support the development of innovative enterprises with high growth potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Offering venture capital to emerging innovative companies (establishing the early-stage fund of funds)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Funds of funds (Balt Innovasomandus (Baltic Innovation Fund) and Ernfund) have been established and are operational.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. To develop measures in cooperation with the Baltic Sea countries, which would help imagine the Estonian venture capital market in a mutually beneficial manner, thereby improving the international investment capabilities of Estonian investors and the access of young innovative Estonian enterprises to international venture capital</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Baltic Innovation Fund (Balt Innovasomandus) has been founded, launched successfully, and is operational.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. To establish a legal framework for the operation of crowdfunding platforms</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Ministry of Finance has prepared their position regarding EU crowdfunding. Pertaining regulation is still under discussions in the working party of the Council of the EU and it is currently unknown whether the Member States will agree upon this document before the elections of European Parliament. The initiation of the drafting Estonian legislation depends on the discussions – the national legislation may be unnecessary, as the EU legislation would be directly applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Implementation of the industrial loan measure</td>
<td></td>
<td>The industrial loan measure has been implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. To develop a network of &quot;Business angels&quot; and to offer start-up funding through business incubators and business acceleration programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td>The activity continues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Implementation of the Start-up Estonia 2.0 programme</td>
<td></td>
<td>The pilot project is completed, the main programme has been launched.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a. To develop challenge-based R&D&I coordination mechanisms with a focus on the socio-economic challenges of Estonia (e.g., energy independence, an ageing population, internal and external security) SF programme "Supporting sectoral research programmes of ministries"  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Rural Affairs 2. The measure has been developed. The activity “Strengthening sectoral research and development” financed from structured funds has been approved. One of the activities is supporting applied research with a socio-economic objective. The applied research will be prepared on the initiative and under the management of the ministries responsible for the respective field. The Estonian Research Council implements the programme.

b. Proactively analysing the legal framework and promotion of the state information system, in order to support the initial testing and introduction of smart technologies (e.g., The Internet of Things, Linked Data)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The work is continuous. For example, currently, the proposals concerning implementation of the role sharing concept in the Public Transport Act are being discussed. The organisation body that coordinates cooperation between the state information technology centres and information technology companies is setting a legal framework (e.g. standard format) and mapping necessary changes.

c. To increase the involvement of companies in the selection of research topics for PhD thesis, the preparation and defence process and the opportunity for businesses to be members of the defence committees  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research

Within the activity “Scholarships in smart specialisation growth areas” (the implementation is the Arhimedes Foundation), allocation of scholarships at the third level of higher education or business doctoral studies is supported. Doctoral students who cooperate with entrepreneurs, i.e. the business doctoral students are supported. It is planned to support at least 80 business doctoral students and 80 PhD doctoral students who write their doctoral thesis. Reception commenced in 2016. As of the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year, there were 26 doctoral students cooperating with entrepreneurs who were given the scholarship.

d. To continue the development of infrastructures of research and higher education and opening the use of infrastructure for entrepreneurs, implementing measures for sustainability and modernisation of R&D&I infrastructure (regional competence centres will be supported from the measure "Developing regional competence centres" of both 2007–2013 and 2014–2020)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance

The questions pertaining to science and higher education infrastructure are shown in the item “II. Developing environments facilitating research and development and innovation”. The measure for developing regional competence centres is supporting further development of the research infrastructures and opening for entrepreneurs. In 2017, a call for proposals was held, which supported the cooperation projects with the entrepreneurs and the objective of which was to develop and use innovative R&D solutions in business. The budget of the call for proposals was planned in the amount of 500 000 euros, of which 492 790 euros were allocated with the decision; payments have been made in the amount of 132 883 euros, i.e. 27% of the allocation. The projects will be concluded by the end of 2019.

VI. Integration into the European Research Area

a. To participate in the joint EU R&D&I initiatives and in the joint infrastructures. To contribute to the creation of European Research Area through corresponding national policies  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research

Continuous activity. The Government of the Republic of Estonia approved with its Order No. 61 “Strategic participation of Estonia in EU research and development and innovation partnerships” of 5 February 2015, the aim of which is to set down the principles of the state participation in various EU R&D&I related partnerships. The decision provides the framework of making choices and the distribution of roles of different parties. This has set up a national procedure for setting thematic priorities of European Research Area and the Horizon 2020 programme. The programme also offers an opportunity to participate in the European Union initiatives.

b. To increase the motivation of universities and businesses to diversity financing sources, by making use of the research and development needs of companies located outside of Estonia, but also the EU’s various R&D&I financing programmes (e.g., Horizon 2020, ERA-net, H2020, etc.). To participate actively in international innovation partnerships  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research

Related activities that are supported:
- support to apply for an ERC grant – for researchers working in Estonia whose research and development project is matched the second assessment round of ERC grant application but has still remained without a financing decision. This enables continuing work with the project, which was left without funding, until preparing and submitting a new ERC grant application.
- Horizon 2020 ERA Chairs support – enables Estonian research and development institutions to cover the research work cost of Horizon 2020 ERA Chairs.
- Horizon 2020 ERA NET support – enables Estonian research and development institutions to cover the participation costs of Horizon 2020 ERA NET projects.
- Horizon 2020 EIT support – covers the travel and personnel costs of Estonian research institutions when participating in the work of knowledge and innovation communities (KIC).
- Estonian Liaison Office in Brussels introduces Estonian research and development activity and offers an opportunity to participate in the European Union initiatives.

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a. To participate in the joint EU R&D&I initiatives and in the joint infrastructures. To contribute to the creation of European Research Area through corresponding national policies  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research

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c. To increase the awareness of businesspeople and make better use of the existing and developing opportunities for entering institutional markets (e.g., through NATO, EDA, ESA, EUMETSAT, CERN, ESA, etc.)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Implementation continues. No additional activities are planned.

d. To support the use of the opportunities provided to businesses by the SME enterprise programme (COSME)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Research

Implementation continues. No additional activities are planned.

e. SF programme: The internationalisation of research and higher education; support of mobility and future generations  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research

Implementation of the activity “Internationalisation of research and support for mobility and the next generation” of “Mobilia Plus” phase is currently in process (the implementer is 54 East Tradeknagroup (Estonian Research Council). From the beginning of the programme, 41 post-doctoral researchers’ projects and 13 top researchers’ projects have been supported and support has been granted for returning to Estonia of 29 researchers. In addition, five projects have been supported so that to enable researchers who have not received an ERC grant to prepare new ERC grant applications, four ERA Chairs projects, two EIT project partners, and two ERA NET projects have been supported. Within the framework of the programme, 15 people have gained experience in Estonian Liaison Office in Brussels, 19 research marketing events were organised, 48 Estonian researchers have participated in training on how to write an ERC grant or made a study visit to ERC grant holders.

f. The development of a balanced R&D funding system, which combines institutional funding based on effectiveness and project funding based on competition, is required in order to increase the effectiveness of the R&D system and the capacity of universities and research institutions  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research, Government Office

In 2018, the ratio of base funding and research supports is 49% - 51%, so the goal of achieving a 50 : 50 ratio is almost fulfilled.

9. Broader use of the potential of creative industries, ICT and other key technologies in order to increase the added value of other sectors

I. Developing measures to support creative industries more effectively

a. Development of incubation for the creative industry.  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The "Conditions and procedure for the support measures, joint projects and export capability of creative industry development support" have been approved.

b. Development of support structures for the creative industry.  x  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The "Conditions and procedure for the support measures, joint projects and export capability of creative industry development support" have been approved.

c. Development of the export capacity of companies acting in different sectors of the creative industry.  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The "Conditions and procedure for the support measures, joint projects and export capability of creative industry development support" have been approved.

d. Linking the creative industry to other sectors (small and large projects).  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The "Conditions for granting support to improve awareness about creative industry, develop knowledge and skills and implementation of major projects across creative industry and other sectors" have been approved.

II. Developing measures to promote the awareness of businesspeople and make better use of the existing and developing opportunities for entering institutional markets (e.g., through NATO, EDA, ESA, EUMETSAT, CERN, ESA, etc.)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Implementation continues. No additional activities are planned.

III. Developing measures to support sustainability and modernisation of R&D&I infrastructure (regional competence centres will be supported from the measure "Developing regional competence centres" of both 2007–2013 and 2014–2020)  x  x  x  x  x  x  Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance

The questions pertaining to science and higher education infrastructure are shown in the item “II. Developing environments facilitating research and development and innovation”. The measure for developing regional competence centres is supporting further development of the research infrastructures and opening for entrepreneurs. In 2017, a call for proposals was held, which supported the cooperation projects with the entrepreneurs and the objective of which was to develop and use innovative R&D solutions in business. The budget of the call for proposals was planned in the amount of 500 000 euros, of which 492 790 euros were allocated with the decision; payments have been made in the amount of 132 883 euros, i.e. 27% of the allocation. The projects will be concluded by the end of 2019.
The SF programme "Supporting applied research in growth areas" of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The "Conditions for granting support to improve awareness about creative industry, develop knowledge and skills, and implementation of major projects across creative industry and other sectors" have been approved.

II. Facilitating an integrated approach in order to increase the impact of interaction between creative industries, ICT and other key technologies

a. To create possibilities for developing space technology (Earth-based applications), improving public sector services through the introduction of Earth-based applications of space technology.

b. SF programme "Supporting applied research in growth areas of smart specialisation".

c. SF programme "Improving the R&D capacity of state agencies".

d. Developing a strategy for reuse of Open Etra and promoting the re-use and access of public sector data, incl. creating an appropriate infrastructure.

e. Further development of the IT Academy programme.

f. Compilation of a development programme for the ICT sector, with one of the focuses being on a digital transition in industry.

The programme continues in accordance with the programme.

III. Increasing human capital capacity in order to achieve cross-sectoral objectives

a. To improve the quality of management training for entrepreneurs via central provision of international training competencies.

b. Implementation of the development programme for entrepreneurs.

c. To continue supporting the support structures and export potential of creative economy and improve the awareness of support schemes for startups of creative economy.

d. Development of the infrastructure and technical capacity of the business centres.

The programme has been initiated, the support for digitalisation and automation of the industry is being implemented as of 10 September 2018.

IV. To develop human capital in the area of research and to ensure the increment of engineers and key specialists

a. Increasing the income of doctoral students and improving the efficiency of doctoral studies.

b. To develop a research instruction system and implement measures for improving the quality and effectiveness of instruction, with the aim to increase the number of good and effective supervisors.

c. To continue supporting schools with doctoral programmes and develop further research centres of excellence.

d. To develop a researchers' career model with integrated solutions for social guarantees to the extent that it starts with entry into the research world and ends with exiting from it, from a post-doctorate that supports career mobility to working in an R&D company without jeopardizing the continuation of one's career.

V. Bringing transportation, ICT and other public infrastructure and institutions that support business to an international level

I. Improving air traffic connections

a. To support the security and rescue services at Tallinn Airport and regional airports.

b. To develop air traffic connections with all major European business centres.

The activity continues.

The activity continues.
c. To lengthen the Tallinn–Airport runway and ensure ILS III category. x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

II. Better interoperability of the road and railway networks and the public transport system

a. To develop the Õlemiste passenger terminal and develop more connections with the airport. x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Will be performed when the Rail Baltic network is constructed. The connection to the airport, i.e. tranway connection is completed. A new design contest will be held for choosing the architectural solution.

b. To improve the speed and safety on main roads; to continue the reconstruction of the Tallinn-Tartu road into a four-lane road and the reconstruction of the Tallinn-Narva and Tallinn-Parnawa roads. x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

This will be carried out in accordance with the road management plan.

c. To carry out an inventory of local roads in order to determine their conditions and traffic loads and to establish a national database of the network of national and local roads and entries under the National Register of Roads. x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The activity continues. The Road Administration has received an authorization from the Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities and is continuing the inventory of local roads. An additional study is to be concluded for specifying the situation and traffic intensity, which also needs an authorization from the Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities along with its support.

d. To tighten the Tallinn-Tartu train schedule and reduce the duration of the journey by introducing new lines. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

In order to increase the connection speed, the railroad section Tartu-Tartu was repaired in 2015–2017. The frequency of Tallinn-Tartu passenger train was increased continuously and in December 2018, an additional return trip was added, increasing the frequency. To add additional speed up to 155 km/h in certain sections, altogether 13 million euros have been invested in the Tallinn-Tartu railway section in 2018–2020. As the result of this project, passenger trains can use the speed of 155 km/h in 42% of the length of Tallinn–Tapa–Tartu railway.

e. Specifying the location of the Rail Baltic railway route corridor on the territory of the Republic of Estonia; initiating of planning. x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Affairs

County plans were adopted in the middle of February 2018. It is possible to submit challenges to the plans until the middle of April. Already filed court cases are to be solved. In the end of 2018, land acquisitions were started. The preliminary design for the railway route was prepared in summer 2018. Drafting the main design was started in 2019. The first agreement will be signed in March 2019.

f. Development of a single e-ticket system for all types of public transport. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The system is being developed. The first agreement will be signed in March 2019.

g. To introduce flexible public transport solutions, such as on request buses, social transport or taxis, in sparsely populated areas. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

On-demand buses are used in five counties. In Lääne County, an on-demand line was established to be a regular line, as the annual number of passengers was not as presented in the survey. There were also actual passengers. All public transport centres are constantly and consistently reviewing the line network and, if possible, use more on-demand lines. Proposals are continuously made to optimise the lines to make the public transport cost-effective. Suuremaa has amended its line network. In addition, a social transport project is being developed. During 2019, several pilot projects for on-demand buses are to be initiated in different public transport centres. The Government Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications has created an innovation team, which is preparing a model for route-wide on-demand transportation (April) and service description (December).

h. To improve access to public transport information; to introduce information systems that meet the needs of hearing impaired and visually impaired people. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Programme is gradually progressing. Presently, of 31 supported projects, more than 80% have been completed. In 2019–2020, all of the remaining projects will be finished.

i. To prepare guidelines and best practices on spatial planning and organisation of mobility for the use by state and local authorities and the private sector. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance

Implementation of the road management plan 2014–2020. In accordance with the action plan of the Government of the Republic, the road management plan 2014–2020 will be amended along with the State Budget Strangep 2019–2023. In the first quarter of 2019, the results of the 5-year-monitoring will be unconsumed, after which conclusions can be made and proposals presented for further activities.

The long-term view on the construction will be prepared in 2015–2020.

j. In order to increase the competitiveness of Estonia's highway transport and freight carriage, investments in main highways and bridges that would allow the weight restrictions for trucks to be lifted, incl. during a three-year test period starting with 2015, the impact of the saving of gross weight restrictions on the condition of the roads and road maintenance costs will be monitored. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The Planning Act specifies that the ministry responsible for the road may make regulations to establish requirements concerning the implementation of the principles of planning; the specifications of the manner in which the functions of spatial plans are to be fulfilled; the formalisation of spatial plans; the structure of spatial plans; and the documents related to public disclosure and their preservation (subsection 3 (6)). The instructional materials of general planning and impact assessment and a draft regulation are being prepared.

k. Continuing the work of the Working Group of Spatial Design x x x x x Ministry of Finance

The Klooga project is still on hold, as Eesti Raudtee has a plan to reconstruct a level crossing there, which means that it has to be finished first (it is expected that the EVR project will be finished in 2020).

III. Developing the port infrastructure

a. The development of the Muuga commercial port as a container transport hub, which would service west-east and north-south trade flows. x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The next steps in connection with Muuga multimodal terminal: (a) legal analysis (spring 2020), (b) analysis of potential financing models (summer 2018), (c) making agreements with Tallinna Sadam, EVR and, if necessary, operator (autumn 2018), (d) preparing and designing the detailed plan (2019–2020), (e) construction.

b. In order to improve the quality of information and communication technology networks

2. Introducing a new generation broadband connections everywhere by establishing a basic network in rural areas in Estonia (supporting access to the network supported under the 2007–2013 measure “Improving access to the Internet in regions that use the new generation electronic communication network”). x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Affairs

Starting from 2010, the establishment of the broadband base network has been supported to enable the communication companies to access to networks for the end users. As of Mar 2015, with the help of SF, 2,715 km of base network was created from 2007–2013. The activity is continued in 2014–2020 supported by SF in accordance with the investment plan. As of 2018, 6,113 km of base network was established and additional 811 km is under construction. To support the last mile construction, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications prepared a support measure and the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority organised a public procurement, which was won by Elektrilevi OÜ, who will construct in 2019–2023 the possibilities to connect via optical fibre to the addresses situated all over Estonia in the areas of market failure, costing prescribed support in the amount of 20 million euros.
b. Preparing and implementing an action plan for the programme “10 million e-Estonia”.

The action plan was approved in July 2015 and it is being implemented. The e-residency programme was updated and the action plan was approved as part of the ICT development programme in autumn 2017 for the period of 2018–2020, including the cessation of programme activities, it was repurposed in the end of 2018 to invite entrepreneurs to Estonia.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

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x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

c. Developing, among other infrastructure investments (e.g. introducing sensor-based collection and forwarding of road information), the infrastructure for collecting real-time transport information.

The activities of the implementation plan for 2014–2017 of the National Transport Development Plan are being implemented. The first test section in Via Baltica for using the variable message signs is completed. The next step will be to apply for support from the CEF round to use the same solution in the Tallinn roundabout.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

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x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

d. Supporting the development of trip planning and other transport information services, including mobile services, between modes of transport and/or services that are integrated with additional services.

As of November 2018, it is possible to use contactless payments with bank cards in Tallinn public transport. In cooperation with the sector the results are currently being mapped to specify the necessary prerequisites to amend legislation to enable offering multi-type mobility services by private sector in Estonia. The Road Administration is, along with the use of GTFS, taking up the use of NETEX-Format, according to the requirements of the MTMIS delegation act. As a result the nation-based interconnection points will be established for receiving the data about public transport. Figure 1 is the pan-European synchronisation of the IT-architectures of the transport sector, which enables due to the same format for example an access to different states’ public transport data for different suppliers of mobility services.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

e. Developing the legislation facilitating sale introduction of autonomous vehicles and the relevant standards of interoperability, safety and monitoring.

An amendment to the Traffic Act that aims to introduce force on 14 July 2017 allows for traffic partially or fully autonomously or remotely controlled vehicles or self-driving delivery robots. The so-called “trust-exempt group” has completed a survey and analysis in cooperation with TelfTech and TelirockPartners, which will be delivered by the end of April 2019. The survey focuses on the feasibility of the artificial intelligence, and this will be a basis to further actions in drafting the legislation and preparing the standards.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

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x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

f. Developing the Single Window applications further.

In maritime sector, the maritims information system (EMEIT) is constantly improved and the information system is amended to ensure compliance with the changing requirements. The funds necessary for the development of the system are planned in the budget of the Maritime Administration.

x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

12. Implementing long-term structural changes in the energy sector in accordance with Estonia’s energy security and energy efficiency objectives

In the energy sector, the activities of the Energy Act amendment for the strengthening of the national energy strategy and the national programme for the development of renewable energy sources were launched. The implementation of the programme was assessed in the period of 2016–2019.

Continuous activity.

a. Continuing to increase the diversity of the portfolio of energy sources in order to maintain energy independence, including increasing the share of renewable energy sources and reducing the share of carbon-intensive energy sources.

The launch of Balticconnector and third Estonia-Latvia connection in 2020. The LNG terminal is a private project and the state does not plan to support it, yet it defends the position that the LNG terminals are to compete on the market without the distortions of state aid.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

b. Preparing and implementing energy infrastructure projects to improve the internal energy market (LNG Terminal, Balticconnector, third interconnection with Latvia).

Discussions are being held in the energy working party of senior officials of the Baltic Council of Ministers. The optimal measure, which will impose a transfer charge to electric energy from third countries, has been identified. Discussions of 30 are being held with the purpose of implementing the measures as of 1 January 2020.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

c. Establishing common EU energy market rules, including measures implemented at the border of the EU for avoiding carbon leakage.

In 2019, the Electricity Market Act amendments including new principles for supporting renewable energy was approved in the Riigikogu. More specific draft regulation for the reverse auction is being prepared at the moment. It is planned that the first reverse auction will be held already during 2019.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

d. Developing the electricity support schemes for electricity produced from renewable resources and via co-generation of heat and electricity.

The requirements for supporting microproducers were approved by the 2018 Electricity Market Act amendments. The new regulation for the reverse auction will be held already during 2019.

x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

e. Creating opportunities for Estonian renewable energy producers and developers for the implementation of the flexible cooperation mechanisms specified in the renewable energy directive.

A political roadmap has been agreed upon, based on which the synchronisation of the Baltic states will happen by 2025. By June 2019, the more specific requirements for the connection (category of measures) will be agreed upon.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

f. Establishing a balanced electricity system and paying renewable energy supports to micro-producers.

The National Development Plan for the Energy Sector was adopted in October 2017; the implementation plan is being prepared.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

g. Development of a smart grid

The amendments of the Electricity Market Act enabling the trade of energy statistics were approved by the Riigikogu. Intensive foreign negotiations are being held to sign agreements with other Member States. The market participants are actively involved.

x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

h. Preparation for the synchronisation of the power grid with the European synchronous block.

The amendments of the Electricity Market Act enabling the trade of energy statistics were approved by the Riigikogu. Intensive foreign negotiations are being held to sign agreements with other Member States. The market participants are actively involved.

x x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

i. Preparation and implementation of the development plan of the smart grid

The National Development Plan for the Energy Sector was adopted in October 2017; the implementation plan is being prepared.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

j. Drawing up and implementing of national programmes for reducing certain atmospheric pollutants, 2020-2030

The National Development Plan for the Energy Sector was adopted in October 2017; the implementation plan is being prepared.

x x x Ministry of the Environment

k. Preparation of the climate and energy plan

Obligation imposed by Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. The draft of the national energy and climate plan is ready and has been sent to the European Commission for review. The Commission will provide comments to the climate and energy plan, based on which the plan must be amended or discussed with the Commission. Officially, the Estonian climate and energy plan will be submitted by the end of 2019.

x x Ministry of the Environment

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x x Ministry of the Environment

13. Reducing the general resource and energy intensity of the economy

In the energy sector, the activities of the Energy Act amendment for the strengthening of the national energy strategy and the national programme for the development of renewable energy sources were launched. The implementation of the programme was assessed in the period of 2016–2019.

Continuous activity.

a. Improving the energy efficiency of public sector buildings.

Implementation is continued: 2018–2020 SF measure amounts to 150 million euro. As at 23 September 2017, the measure budget was covered with applications and accepting new applications was suspended. To continue with this support measure, additional financing for the period of 2019–2022 in the total sum of 100,000,000 euros is proposed during the State budget strategy negotiations. It is planned to continue with the measure. For implementing the activities, 17.5 million euros have been allocated in 2019. Additional applications was suspended. To continue with this support measure, additional financing for the period of 2019–2022 in the total sum of 100,000,000 euros is proposed during the State budget strategy negotiations. It is planned to continue with the measure. For implementing the activities, 17.5 million euros have been allocated in 2019. Additional

x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

b. Supporting the investments into energy efficiency of apartment buildings.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

b. Supporting the investments into energy efficiency of apartment buildings.

x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
c. Developing environmentally friendly public transport by using the investment programme for gas and electric means of transport x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs

The amount of the 2014–2020 SF measure for the promotion of gas transport is 9 million euros. As at the end of 2017, there were 6.3 million euros left in the measure; however, the investor in the support has significantly grown from the first quarter of 2018. In 2019, it is planned to propose the financing in the amount of 2 million euros for the 2019–2022 budget for the additional measure. The aim of the measure is to develop an infrastructure of CNG stations in rural areas for enabling the gradual transfer of cars using LPG to use CNG. The same time, it is planned to continue the support measures for biogas production. As for electric buses, it is planned to start a pilot project in cooperation with Tallinn Infrastructure Ltd, which aims to specify the availability of electric buses in different weather conditions and different lines. Based on the experience gained from the pilot project, we can scale the results gradually to other lines and cities and we will gain knowledge of the (additional) financing needs for taking electric buses into use.

d. Planning that reduces road traffic, development of public transport and light traffic, enforcement of activities of the SF measure “Sustainable development of urban areas” and the SF measure “Sustainable development of the cities of Ida-Viru County” x x x x x Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment

As at the end of 2018, 53 financing decisions for urban areas light traffic projects and sustainable mobility projects have been adopted from SF-measures “Sustainable development of urban areas” and “Sustainable development of the urban areas of Ida-Viru County”, that amounts over 29.4 million euros. New applications are being proceeded.

e. Reconstruction of street lighting systems x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

SF measure “Removal of street lighting infrastructure”. In the beginning of 2019, it was decided to support 32 municipal projects in the amount of 20.8 million euros within the framework of the measure. It is also planned to open an additional call for proposals during 2019.

f. Developing collaborative renewable energy projects with other countries (within the framework of the renewable energy directive). x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

In 2017, an agreement was made between the Republic of Estonia and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on trade of statistics within the cooperation mechanisms when Estonia is the selling party and Luxembourg is the buying party. Similar projects will be continued.

g. Support/programme for the development of energy technologies x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

This is related to the National Development Plan for Energy Sector. At the beginning of 2018, Estonia joined the biorenewable technology programme at the International Energy Agency (IEA) and examines opportunities to participate in other IEA technology collaboration programmes. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications is mapping the use of resources necessary for R&D activities needed for implementation of the National Development Plan for Energy Sector 2030. Available resources are 400,000 euros per year in 2019–2022. A decision has been made for Estonia to participate in the Nordic-Baltic research collaboration programme.

h. Development of a new concept of environmental changes, taking into account the results of the analyses of the external cost of the use of the environment and of optimal remediation of the oil shale sector. x x x x x Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The analysis of external impacts of exploitation of the environment and costs for society is being implemented and it will be completed by autumn 2018. The analysis of optimal changes for oil shale was completed at the end of 2016. Proposals based on the study were presented at the Government of the Republic cabinet meeting in the first half of 2018, in addition, a respective amendment for the Environmental Changes Act was prepared, but because of the steep increase of the CO2 quota price, it was not enforced. An analysis of the environmental changes system and the renewal of economic measures influencing exploitation of environment and proposals will be prepared by the end of 2019.

i. Developing and implementing the companies’ energy and resource efficiency measures (including BAT, resource audits, resource management systems). x x x x x Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Activity is continued. This is financed from the 2014–2020 structural funds. Starting from 2016, series of information dissemination events where the general principles as well as specific vehicles (e.g. wastes, energy, digitisation) were discussed were conducted within the framework of the resource efficiency measures; in addition, visual materials and messages were created. The total number of participants is 843. Individual consultations with companies were commenced. A resource audit manual and training plan were prepared and 49 resource use specialists were trained. The call for proposals for the audits and investment activities are open (respectively 1,000,000 euros and 45 million euros). As of the end of 2018 91 audits (support circa 500,000 euros) and 31 investments (support circa 25 million euros) have been financed, of which respectively 54 and 10 projects have been completed. The application activity is constantly growing.

j. Preventing and reducing waste generation and increasing recycling and reuse of waste. x x x x x Ministry of the Environment

This is financed from the 2014–2020 structural funds. Among the activities to enhance the prevention to reduce and recycle the waste, 1 project for nurse of wastes, 11 projects for converting or expanding the waste management centres, and 2 projects for recycling the biodegradable waste have been supported. During 2019, the call for proposals will be continued.

k. Implementation of measures to increase the use of vehicles that use alternative fuels (including biogas) (support measures to develop the biomethane production and filling stations infrastructure). x x x x x Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The measure “The conditions and procedure for use of support intended to aid the development of biomethane market” is being implemented and a new part of the implementation of the measure, biomethane will be made available for end-users for the same price as natural gas. As the result of the measure, two or more biomethane production plants will be launched.

l. Mapping the socioeconomic value of ecosystem services and develop and implement a relevant assessment model. x x x x x Ministry of the Environment

The measure “Necessary tools for assessment, prognosis, and accessibility of data on biodiversity, a study on wolf DNA has commenced. The work to create a nature portal has begun. The next portal has to co-exist with environmental portal. Preparation for the opening of the nature portal has also begun.

m. Preservation and restoration of ecosystems. x x x x x Ministry of the Environment

The measure “Preservation and recovery of protected species and habitats” is being implemented. The activities of all measures have begun and they are being implemented. Six open calls for proposals were announced, six Minister of the Environment orders regarding the conditions of granting support for the activities of implementing authorities have been approved.

n. Developing the accounting and monitoring permits system for natural mineral resources in order to increase sufficient availability, economical use and security of supply of raw materials. x x x x x Ministry of the Environment

Security of supply of construction materials is assured by the Environmental Board on a case-by-case basis, taking into account national interests when an extraction permit is granted. Based on that, if necessary, the granting of a permit is refused if too many quantities are operated in the specific area or the Government of the Republic is requested a consent in case of refusal by the local authority to receive a permit if security of supply is not guaranteed. Security of supply data are publicly available via the web, which can be used also for the assessment of a development project perspective. In addition, permit areas damaged by extraction and abandoned peat areas and peat areas suitable for extraction were made available in the map application of the Land Board. The application helps to easily find permit areas for which a permit can be applied for. The application also shows abandoned peat areas damaged by extraction, which is currently functioning. The new Earth’s Crust Act entered into force on 1 January 2017 and set a limit (1 year) to the processing of permits and included other amendments that contribute to achieving the objective. In 2018, preparations began to integrate the research and extraction permits into the joint environmental permit. The goal is to proceed and issue these permits electronically via KOTKAS (Environment Agency’s information system).
The promotion of the utilisation of timber to a greater extent.

The development and implementation of the fundamental principles of the Earth’s crust policy in order to use earth and the mineral resources in a manner that creates high value for the society of Estonia, taking into account socio-economic, security, geological and environmental aspects. Establishing a state geology service.

The development and implementation of the fundamental principles of the climate policy for 2050.

A study on the cost-effectiveness of the measures intended to reduce greenhouse gas emission from sectors not included in the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system has being carried out and the results of the study were presented in 2018. Suitable measures will be decided in 2019 and necessary input will be provided in renewing the development plans.

The Ministry of the Environment promotes the utilisation of timber to a greater extent.

Within the environmental programming, demolition of agricultural, industrial or military buildings that according to the local authority spoil the landscape and are not in use and the handling of waste due to demolishing, including facilitating recovery and reuse and cleaning of the area.

Continuing the demolition of buildings that are no longer used and spoil the landscape.

Following the principles of resource efficiency when carrying out public procurements.

Developing and implementing a framework for emissions trading by sectors that do not belong to the emissions trading system (buildings, transport, agriculture, waste, etc.).

Developing and implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emission from sectors not included in the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system.
a. Additional measures by the Tax and Customs Board to improve tax receipts (construction, catering, hospitality, fuels, public procurement).

  
  | x | x | x | x | x | Ministry of Finance

  
  Fight against undeclared wages – regular observations related to employment regulation: regional and risk-based.
  
  Public procurements – in cooperation of the Ministry of Finance and Tax and Customs Board, a development for the procurement register is about to be completed, which enables to check via the register the causes for disqualifying the contractors and their subcontractors, including the absence of tax arrears. If the contractor has the cause for disqualifying, the contracting authority requests that entrepreneur to be replaced, hence for example the entrepreneurs with tax arrears cannot participate in the fulfilment of the procurement agreements.

  
  b. To hold Government’s budget at least in cumulative balance or movement towards.

  
  | x | x | x | x | x | Ministry of Finance

  
  The budget for 2017 had a structural deficit. According to the prognosis, the budget will be in balance during 2018 and remains so until 2021. In 2022, it is predicted to be in structural surplus of 0.1%. If the prognoses are correct, the budget remains in cumulative structural surplus during the prognosis period.

  
  c. Comprehensive development of accessibility (including the necessary support services)

  
  | x | x | x | x | x | Ministry of Social Affairs

  
  The accessibility council formed in 2015 continues to work. In 2017, two council meetings were held. Within the 2018 council meeting a panel discussion was held about the possibilities for improvement of the accessibility of the apartment buildings. The participants were representatives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, Estonian Construction Entrepreneurs’ Association, Estonian Real Estate Companics Association, Tallinn Social Welfare and Health Care Department, the Accessibility Forum, and the Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities. The services of sign language interpreting and writing translation are developed by the financing of SF. During 2019, an analysis on the accessibility of public transport nodes and stops was carried out (contracted by the Ministry of Social Affairs).

  
  First universal design contest was held in 2016, led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and its purpose was to develop a regular and independent contest enhancing the principles of universal design. The first universal design contest was piloted in 2016–2017. Positive experience from the first pilot period with 5 municipalities encourages to continue with the improved service model piloting on a larger scale. The service model allows to provide quick and comprehensive help for both the person and their family, also enabling to decrease the compartmentalisation and doubling the services and use the resources more efficiently.

  
  14. To continue the budgetary policy supporting competitiveness (high level of productive expenses, increased flexibility, controlling public sector wage costs, planning the local government revenue base in state budget strategy

  
  | x | x | x | x | x | Ministry of Education and Research

  
  The objective is to join all ministerial and areas of government to the support services centre. The final report of the support services centre (TUSE) project was submitted to the Government in the first half of 2017. All areas of government have joined the National Support Services Centre’s accounting services, except for the Ministry of Defence, which will stay separate (their own central accounting unit has been formed at Defence Forces). Foundations and one legal person governed by public law have joined the accounting services of the National Support Services Centre. As of 1 September 2018, the National Support Services Centre provides accounting services (financial accounts, and personnel and wage calculation) to 156 governmental bodies (24.8%), including other legal persons governed by public law (total of 24), governmental foundations (total of 57) and state authorities (total of 106). In addition to reformal support services the National Support Services Centre provides the service on amending the public procurements to the Government Offices, and to authorities of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institute for Health Development, and Public Conciliator’s Office).

  
  The State Budget Act was amended in 2017, the amended Act was enforced in January 2019 and the Act provides that the structural balance of the budget is calculated as an average of several years.
| a. | To increase the financial autonomy of local authorities, the allocations intended for a specific purpose are added to the revenue base of local authorities | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment | The decision of the cabinet meeting of Government of the Republic of 21 September 2019 provides that the relevant ministries are to analyse the transfer of obligations (together with funding) to municipalities. Five specific areas were noted: support for disabled people; support for the vocational training, secondary education, and private schools; state owned secondary roads, support system for coaches, county development centres. On 31 January 2019, the government was given an overview and the next steps for providing the proposals were agreed upon. |
| b. | Development and implementation of activity plans for state reforms. | Ministry of Finance | An action plan for state reform has been approved by the Government. The action plan includes activities until the first quarter of 2019. An overview of the fulfilment of the action plan for state reform in 2017–2019 was provided to the government in its cabinet meeting on 21 February 2019. Based on that, most of the set goals are achieved and transferring state working positions outside the capital is still in progress. |
| c. | Revision of the tasks of state institutions and organisations established by the state, and increasing the efficiency of the management of institutions. | Ministry of Finance | The Ministry of Finance in cooperation with ministries of specific fields conducts analyses on various topics that potentially allow the reduction of double, saving or offering better services, incl. for example in agriculture, transport board, assembling support functions into a joint ministry building, in ICT services, nomenclature use at courts, work organisation in state laboratories, in offering cause services, nomination of museums, schools and hospitals networks. The Ministry of Finance will continue with making the processes between authorities more efficient, improving quality, and activities related to nomination. |
| d. | Activity plan and timeline for taking jobs out of the capital and implementing the activity plan. | Ministry of Finance | Based on the analysis of the tasks and location of governmental authorities, 290 positions have been transferred from the capital. These positions do not include the positions transferred by the Ministry of Defence (data is not public). Therefore, more than 75% of the set goal has been fulfilled and the authorities are searching for additional possibilities to transfer positions. The Government of the Republic was informed of the overview of transferring state positions outside the capital. |
| e. | Activity plan and timeline for establishing state houses and implementing the activity plan. | Ministry of Finance | As of 1 January 2018, the Tax and Customs Board and Statistics Estonia receive data on the state based on minimalism and simplicity. The desktops have been pre-analysed and some of them have been developed. These four projects also support the implementation of e-IDAS. It is planned that by the end of 2021, the state houses will be completed in Rapla, Valga, Jõgeva, and Pärnu. |
| f. | Enforcement of the action plan for making machine readable e-bills compulsory when dealing with the government. | Ministry of Finance | 2018, the process of improving the authorities’ capabilities and communication with partners was started and preparations were made for making the use of e-invoices when transacting with public sector authorities compulsory. The amended Accounting Act was approved by Riigikogu on 20 February 2019 and as of 1 July 2019, only e-invoices are accepted by public sector authorities. |
| g. | Changes in legislation based on the white paper on the ownership policy of state enterprises. | Ministry of Finance | To implement the White Paper on Participation Policy, the State Assets Act must be approved. The Government approved the new OGP action plan on 30 August 2018. Its action plan for participating in the Open Government Partnership in 2016–2018 was approved. The Government of the Republic Act was last discussed at the cabinet meeting of 1 November 2018, where the opinion of the Minister of Justice on the draft was decided to be considered. The discussion of proposals within the government takes more time and the new government must continue with the discussions. |
| h. | Regular personnel- and salary analyses as input to the government budget strategy and state budgets. | Ministry of Finance | Regular personnel- and salary analyses as input to the government budget strategy and state budgets. |
| i. | Implementation of the plan to reduce the volume of law-making. | Ministry of Finance | The decision of the cabinet meeting of Government of the Republic of 21 September 2019 provides that the relevant ministries are to analyse the transfer of obligations (together with funding) to municipalities. Five specific areas were noted: support for disabled people; support for the vocational training, secondary education, and private schools; state owned secondary roads, support system for coaches, county development centres. On 31 January 2019, the government was given an overview and the next steps for providing the proposals were agreed upon. |
| j. | Concept of the Government of the Republic Act and concept of the Organisation of the Public Administration Act. | Ministry of Justice | Both are still being developed. The draft Administrative Organisation Act was not actively discussed in 2018. The draft Government of the Republic Act was last discussed at the cabinet meeting of 1 November 2018, where the opinion of the Minister of Justice on the draft was decided to be considered. The discussion of proposals within the government takes more time and the new government must continue with the discussions. |
| k. | Upgrading the zero-bureaucracy project | Ministry of Economics | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications | The decision of the cabinet meeting of Government of the Republic of 21 September 2019 provides that the relevant ministries are to analyse the transfer of obligations (together with funding) to municipalities. Five specific areas were noted: support for disabled people; support for the vocational training, secondary education, and private schools; state owned secondary roads, support system for coaches, county development centres. On 31 January 2019, the government was given an overview and the next steps for providing the proposals were agreed upon. |
| l. | Project 3.0 (a joint project of Tax and Customs Board, Statistics Estonia, and the Bank of Estonia – possibilities are opened for the automatic movement of data necessary for the state based on minimalism and simplicity) | Ministry of Finance | As of 1 January 2018, the Tax and Customs Board and Statistics Estonia receive data on the state based on minimalism and simplicity. The desktops have been pre-analysed and some of them have been developed. These four projects also support the implementation of e-IDAS. It is planned that by the end of 2021, the state houses will be completed in Rapla, Valga, Jõgeva, and Pärnu. |
| m. | Project Tax and Customs Board 2020 (technological and functional updating of IT, causing open and integrated solutions) | Ministry of Finance | Since 2015, several system and functionality analyses have been made, and a style book for the ministries was agreed upon. An action plan for state reform in 2017–2019 was provided to the government in its cabinet meeting on 21 February 2019. Based on that, most of the set goals are achieved and transferring state working positions outside the capital is still in progress. |
| o. | Public sector and social innovation task force proposals and implementation. | Government Office | The task force for public sector and social innovation presented their proposals to the Government in autumn 2017. Currently, the proposals are being implemented. |
| p. | Establishment of an innovation unit in the common building of the ministries | Government Office | According to one proposal of the task force for public sector and social innovation, an innovation unit will be established in the common building of the ministries. The duty of the unit is to manage the process of resolving problems involving several authorities, coordinate the network of innovation enthusiasts, and organise service design training courses (c. 600 people have undergone the training in three years). |
In order to increase service design knowledge in the public sector, a training programme to support public services has been launched in cooperation with Velvet and Praxis. Approximately 100 people (4 rounds) will be trained in two years. In 2018, one round was carried out, covering the following services: development of support services for a child in need and his/her family, state maintenance allowance scheme, improving the state supervision of the Police and Border Guard Board, a personal and complete view of the pension, and warnings of dangerous weather phenomena.

The Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, is specifying the terms of reference, followed by the preparation of the procurement documents.