Estonian Education
Curriculum
Educational possibilities in Estonia

- Until the age of 7 you usually go to kindergarten, which means that you obtain preschool education.
- In grades 1–9 you obtain basic education.
- In grades 7–9 in addition to obtaining basic education, it is possible for you to get prevocational training in basic school.
For persons without basic education who have passed the minimum school-leaving age (17 years) it is possible to continue their education in vocational schools on vocational training programmes (within 0,5–2,5 years one obtains vocational skills) or in upper-secondary schools for adults.
If you have basic education, then you have four choices to continue your studies. Upper-secondary school – for general upper-secondary education (3 years). Upper-secondary school with prevocational training – for general upper-secondary education and some vocational skills (3 years). Vocational school – for vocational secondary education (at least 3 years). Vocational school – only for vocational training without secondary education (1–3 years).
If you have (general or vocational) secondary education, then you have three choices to continue your studies. Vocational school – for vocational training (0.5–3 years) or professional higher education (3–4.5 years).
Professional higher education institution or university`s college – for professional higher education (3–4,5 years). University – for academic higher education (Bachelor`s (3 years) –> Master`s (2 years) –> Doctorate (3–4 years)). Full-time studies take place at universities and institutions of professional higher education both free of charge and on a fee-paying basis.
Basic Education

Basic education can be acquired in primary schools (grades 1–6), basic schools (grades 1–9) or upper secondary schools that have opened basic school grades. **Basic school** is divided into three stages of study:

- **stage I** – grades 1–3;
- **stage II** – grades 4–6;
- **stage III** – grades 7–9.
Basic education can be acquired on the basis of three national curricula: the national basic school and upper secondary school curriculum, the simplified national basic school curriculum and the national curriculum for students with moderate and severe learning disabilities.
Weekly workload of pupils

- The maximum permitted weekly workload of pupils is as follows:
  - 20 lessons in grade 1;
  - 23 lessons in grade 2;
  - 25 lessons in grades 3 and 4;
  - 28 lessons in grade 5;
  - 30 lessons in grades 6 and 7;
  - 32 lessons in grade 8;
  - 34 lessons in grade 9.
Compulsory subjects in basic schools are Estonian (Russian) Language and Literature, Foreign Language A and B (English, Russian, German or French), Mathematics, Natural Science, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Anatomy, Social Education, Music, Art, Physical Education, Manual Training. Studying Estonian as a second language is compulsory in Russian or non-Estonian medium schools. Pupils whose home language is not Estonian but who study in an Estonian medium school can also study Estonian as a second language.
In order to graduate from basic school, students are required to complete the curriculum and successfully pass three basic school graduation examinations – in Estonian and Literature or Estonian as a second language, Mathematics and in one subject chosen by the pupil.
There are several opportunities for continuing one’s education after graduation from basic school: acquisition of general secondary education in an upper secondary school, secondary vocational education or simply a vocation in a vocational educational institution.
Estonia

Facts about Estonia
Estonia

- Estonia lies north of Latvia and is just 80 km across from Helsinki. The capital is Tallinn. The Estonians are fond of describing their land in context. Tourists may hear about the ‘Estonian Alps’ (Otepää)
Estonia

- Population about 1 340 300
- Area 45 227 (47 549) km²
- National language – estonian
Estonia

- ‘Estonian Niagara’ (Jägala), the ‘Estonian Venice* (Haapsalu) or even the ‘Athens of Emajõgi’ (Tartu).
- Estonia is the smallest Baltic country, slightly bigger than Holland, Switzerland or Denmark.
Estonia’s rich flora includes 1470 varieties of indigenous plants. The forests are mostly pine and spruce with silver and dwarf birch; oak, willow and maple are also found.
Tallinn

Tallinn is the capital of Estonia. Tallinn is dominated by Toompea, the hill over which it has tumbled since the Middle Ages. The city is on a similar latitude to St Petersburg and shares the same warm summer White
Career counselling services and pilot school system in Estonia

Kaja Tammetalu
Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium
Helisingi
7-11 may 2012
History

- Careers counselling system became the focus in Estonian education in 2005
- First pilot schools were started in the same year
The pilot school tasks:

- To identify careers coordinator’s duties
- Test and develop different study and methodical materials
### The pilot school system in Estonia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of school</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Project based</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Project based</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>European Structural Funds</td>
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Careers study system in Estonian schools

- New curriculum was implemented in Estonia in academic year 2011/12
- According to the new curriculum the careers study is integrated in all subjects
- Career study is elective in both-basic school and secondary school (or lower secondary and upper secondary school)
Career study system in Estonian schools

- The career study is compulsory for pilot schools.
- In pilot schools the careers coordinator works part-time (0.2)- it can be the teacher of another subject or the psychologist who has been trained for it.
Career study system in Estonian schools

- In this academic year the career study is included in the curriculum of 88 Estonian schools.
- In Estonia we have 559 schools in this academic year.
- The aim is: to increase the number of schools which have a career coordinator and careers study as a subject in their curriculum.
Pilot school system in Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium

- Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium has been careers services pilot school since 2011

- Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium is renowned on being good at sciences, and has long traditions (it was founded in 1733)
Pilot school system in Pärnu
Koidula Gymnasium

- Most (majority) of our students continue their studies in foreign and Estonian universities
- Our school has made a contract with Tartu University and Tallinn Technical University. It enables our students to listen to the lectures and visit the university laboratories
Pilot school system in Pärnu
Koidula Gymnasium

Tasks of a career co-ordinator include:

- cooperation with regional information and counselling centres and class teachers, supporting subject teachers in implementation of the cross curricular theme
Pilot school system in Pärnu
Koidula Gymnasium

Tasks of a career co-ordinator include:

- organisation of student visits to employers, and in some cases teaching career lessons
- these lessons are usually offered as an elective course for final year students of basic and/or secondary school
Pilot school system in Pärnu Koidula Gymnasium

Tasks of a career co-ordinator include:

- Young people themselves consider the availability of career guidance services good but the information they use to make choices is often based on informal channels.
Pilot school system in Pärnu
Koidula Gymnasium

- We are interested in cooperation of teachers and students between different schools

Thank you!
Career Services in Estonia
Career Services in Estonia

- Practiced in Estonia for about 90 years
- Called in many different ways – the latest version - career services
- Advanced concept of lifelong learning
- The former staircase-image of one’s career has gradually been replaced by the one of a road passing through life
Career services contain

- Career education
- Career information
- Career counselling

- Mainly provided by the public sector within the education and labour market structures.
- Provision in education sector tends to be more complex and divided across many institutions compared to the labour market sector.
In 2008, a contractual agreement to develop career services was signed between Ministry of Education and Research in Estonia (MoER) and Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) stating the areas of responsibility in providing high quality career services to the whole population. The agreement is aimed at developing of methodology, training system, service provision, quality and co-operation in the field. The National Resource Centre for Guidance (NRCG, established in 1998) is the main partner of MoER and MoSA in developing career services in Estonia.
The provision and development of **career services is financed** from the state and local government budget; a significant support comes from the European Lifelong Learning Programme and Structural Funds.
Service provision

- In education sector career services are provided as part of formal and non-formal education.
Within non-formal education, the most important provider of career information and career counselling is the network of regional youth information and counselling centres (YICC).

The centres provide career services on site as well as at school by information specialist and counsellors.
Career information and counselling are also provided by the career centres in higher education institutions and regional employment offices.

Higher education institutions are focused on current students, employers and alumni.

The provision of national labour market services and the payment of labour market benefits is organised by the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (the Fund) through its regional departments, which are located in every county. Career counselling is targeted only at registered unemployed people. The career information points are opened for everybody.
The main focus of guidance in the private sector tends to be on job mediation. Links with the public sector are rather rare. Within companies, human resource managers sometimes address staff career management issues but it is not happening on regular basis.
Career specialists

Career information specialists help to fulfil the target groups’ need for information concerning education, labour market and professions. They deliver career lessons, instruct clients’ career information search, manage information flows and co-operation with relevant networks, organise thematic events, conduct client satisfaction surveys etc.

Career counsellors’ work is to help and support people in career planning, including in making decisions about choosing a profession, work, training and education, developing job search skills and forming an effective personal career planning style. The services are provided as face-to-face and distant sessions on an individual or group basis.
The Pathfinder (in Estonia called Rajaleidja) is the symbol of career services in Estonia.

- Regional youth information and counselling centres.
- National web-portal for young, adult and practitioners.
Future developments

- Career service system is financed by programm (what will happen next?)
- We have 1 career specialist for 9000 youngsters.
- There are no career services for working adult.
- Career education should be compulsory in every school, career co-ordinators work is usually voluntary work.