

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

Estonia

Capital	Tallinn
Population	1.3million
Area (in sq.km)	45,227sq km
Human Development Index (2015)	0.865 (Rank 30)
Languages	Estonian, Russian
International	2989,000
Tourist Arrivals (2015)	
Sources: World Bank, UNDP, UNWTO	



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Estonia

Presenter for VNR: Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior of Estonia

National Thematic Focus:

Four main focus of sustainable development goals:

1. Viability of the Estonian cultural space
2. Growth of welfare,
3. Coherent society
4. Ecological balance.

Institutional Arrangement:

Estonia's national coordination mechanism for the implementation of the 2015 Agenda is the Sustainable Development Commission and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Sustainable Development. The Commission's membership includes non-governmental organizations in every significant field of sustainable development including the academe, while the Working Group is comprised of representatives —at the level of deputy secretary general and heads of departments—from various relevant ministries, i.e., the Ministry of the Environment (which drafted the NSDS), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

At the center of coordination mechanism is the Government Office Strategy Unit, chaired by the Strategy Director of the Government Office Strategy Unit, which acts as the secretariat of the Sustainable Development Commission and links it to the Inter-Ministerial Working Group.

The Unit also coordinates the competitiveness strategy of Estonia 2020, takes part in the preparation of sectoral and cross-cutting strategies, and drafts and monitors the Government Action Plan. This helps to maintain coherence across these horizontal strategies.



SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

Since 2005, Estonia has had a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) — “Sustainable Estonia 21”. The Sustainable Development Commission has conducted an analysis of the NSDS to determine its compliance with the 2030 Agenda and has confirmed that it covers the three dimensions of sustainable development plus the sustainability of Estonian culture.

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

Tourism is [within Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication](#)

<https://www.visitestonia.com/en/>

Tourism and SDG in Estonia:

Opportunities

- Partnerships
- SMEs and entrepreneurship promotion



During 2016-2020 Estonia will continue with **development cooperation** activities, contributing even more to small enterprises, the agricultural sector of the partner countries, **developing tourism**, creating start-ups and favouring their development.

Resources and Useful Links

[VNR Estonia](#)