

## OSH Authorities — Estonia

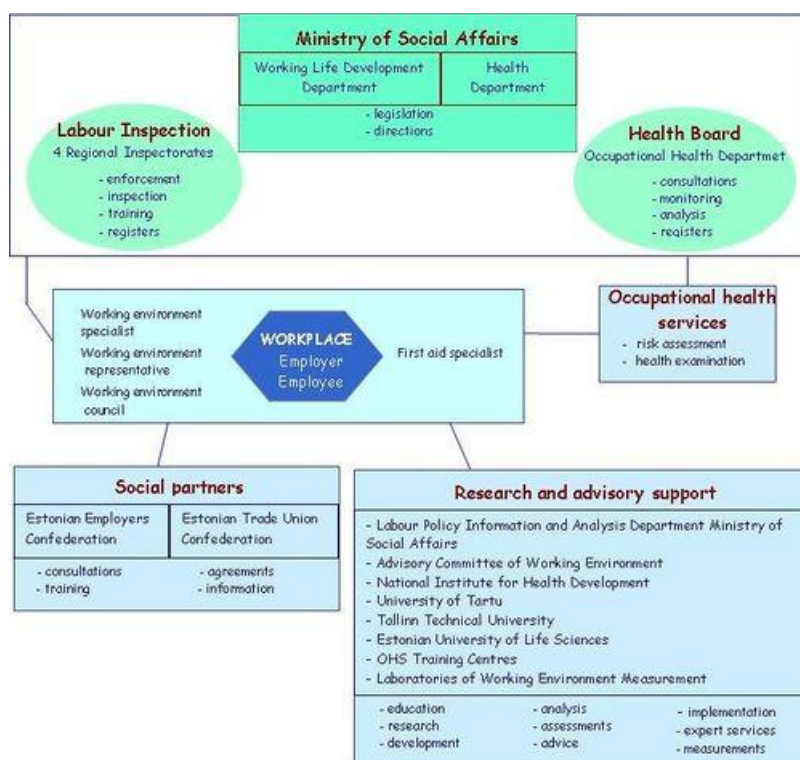
### Description scheme for country overviews

## ESTONIA

Source: [https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH\\_system\\_at\\_national\\_level\\_-\\_Estonia](https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Estonia)

### OSH infrastructure

Scheme:



### OSH authorities

Name of authority	<b>Ministry of Social Affairs (Sotsiaalministeerium)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.sm.ee/et">http://www.sm.ee/et</a>
Short abstract	<p>In the Estonian occupational safety and health (OSH) system, the Ministry of Social Affairs is the executive authority that regulates the entire field; however, two of its structural units (the Working Life Development Department and the Health Department) are directly involved in OSH-related policy-making.</p> <p>The Working Life Development Department is responsible for the overall coordination and management of activities in the field of OSH. The Working Life Development Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plans and implements the working environment policy;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• drafts regulations on OSH.</li></ul>
Link to OSHwiki	<a href="https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Estonia">https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Estonia</a>

Name of authority	<b>Health Board</b> ( <i>Terviseamet</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.terviseamet.ee/en/information/about-hb.html">http://www.terviseamet.ee/en/information/about-hb.html</a>
Short abstract	<p>Three Estonian governmental health authorities — the Health Protection Inspectorate, the Health Care Board and the Chemicals Notification Centre — were combined to create the joint Health Board in 2010.</p> <p>In the field of occupational health, the Health Board's role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participate in the preparation of occupational health programmes and organise their implementation;</li> <li>• analyse information concerning occupational diseases and work-related ill health;</li> <li>• organise refresher courses for occupational health specialists;</li> <li>• register occupational health service providers.</li> </ul>
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Name of authority	<b>Labour Inspectorate</b> ( <i>Tööinspektsioon</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.ti.ee/index.php?page=3&amp;">http://www.ti.ee/index.php?page=3&amp;</a>
Short abstract	<p>The Labour Inspectorate is a government agency operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Its main functions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to arrange for state supervision in the working environment with respect to compliance with the requirements of legislation regulating OSH and labour relations and ensure enforcement by the state on the basis of and to the extent prescribed by the law;</li> <li>• to supervise safe use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the working environment and ensure the effectiveness of PPE at sites of manufacture and sale;</li> <li>• to supervise investigations into occupational accidents and diseases and to supervise the implementation of measures for the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases;</li> <li>• to investigate fatal occupational accidents and diseases, and, if necessary, conduct an analysis of the causes of serious occupational accidents and diseases;</li> <li>• to collect statistics on accidents at work and conduct a subsequent analysis;</li> <li>• to supervise the use of genetically modified micro-organisms in closed environments to the extent prescribed by the law;</li> <li>• to make decisions, as required by the law, on issuing or withholding approval;</li> <li>• to carry out administrative proceedings and approve administrative acts and rules;</li> <li>• to carry out extrajudicial proceedings on misdemeanours to the extent prescribed by law;</li> <li>• to initiate criminal proceedings and carry out urgent investigative actions;</li> <li>• to address and resolve enquiries from individuals on working environment issues;</li> <li>• to resolve individual labour disputes pursuant to the procedures prescribed by law.</li> </ul>
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## ■ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of body	<b>Estonian Health Insurance Fund</b> ( <i>Eesti haigekassa</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.haigekassa.ee/en">http://www.haigekassa.ee/en</a>
Short abstract	The basic principle followed in Estonia is that there is no specific insurance against employment injuries and occupational diseases. These risks are covered by health insurance (short-term benefits) and pension insurance (long-term benefits). Under the employer's civil liability, additional benefits can be provided as compensation. All employees are beneficiaries of the system. Estonia has no formal system of state insurance for occupational accidents and diseases, even though significant developments and improvements in OSH legislation have taken place in the last few years.
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## ■ Research institutes

Name of the institute	<b>National Institute for Health Development (NIHD)</b> ( <i>Tervise Arengu Instituut</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.tai.ee/en/">http://www.tai.ee/en/</a>
Short abstract	The NIHD was established in 2003 as a governmental organisation under the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia. The mission of the NIHD is to improve the health of the Estonian population and enhance quality of life through knowledge-based developments and applied research activities. The main activities of the NIHD are research and the development and implementation of activities in the health and social sectors.
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Name of the institute	<b>Tartu University</b> ( <i>Tartu Ülikool</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.ut.ee/en">http://www.ut.ee/en</a>
Short abstract	Tartu University performs the following functions related to OSH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinating the occupational health teaching programme in the Faculty of Medicine (specialist training for physicians);</li> <li>• organising OSH, and monitoring the working environment in the university and connected units (Biomedicum, Clinicum, etc.);</li> <li>• leading occupational health curriculum development in the Department of Public Health;</li> <li>• organising and participating in training courses in occupational health for other institutions and specialist groups;</li> <li>• taking on an advisory role with regard to OH expertise and programme development in the Ministry of Social Affairs.</li> </ul>
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Name of the institute	<b>Tallinn University of Technology</b> ( <i>Tallinna Tehnikaülikool</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.ttu.ee/">http://www.ttu.ee/</a>
Short abstract	Tallinn University of Technology undertakes basic research and other activities to ensure high levels of safety, quality and productivity in the Estonian working environment.
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#### ■ Prevention institutes

Name of authority	n/a
Link	
Short abstract	In Estonia, unlike in some European countries, there are no prevention institutes. However, preventive activities are included and implemented in the work of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Labour Inspectorate, most commonly through awareness-raising campaigns.
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#### ■ Other OSH services

Name of society	<b>Estonian Society of Occupational Health Physicians</b> ( <i>Eesti töötervishoiuarstide selts</i> )
Link	<a href="http://ettas.ee/">http://ettas.ee/</a>
Short abstract	The society was established in the 1990s. Its main activities are providing additional training to occupational health physicians on current OSH topics and arranging workshops and seminars with other specialists, such as family doctors. In addition, the society works with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Labour Inspectorate on renewing OSH legislation, and it certifies Estonian occupational health physicians (the 5-year specialist training course is provided by Tartu University and Tallinn Technical University).
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#### ■ Standardisation bodies

Name of body	<b>Estonian Centre for Standardisation (EVS)</b> ( <i>Eesti standardikeskus</i> )
Link	<a href="http://www.evs.ee/Esileht/tabid/111/language/en-US/Default.aspx">http://www.evs.ee/Esileht/tabid/111/language/en-US/Default.aspx</a>
Short abstract	EVS is a non-profit association that was established by three founding members (the Republic of Estonia, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Confederation of Employers and Industry) in 1999. EVS operates as the Estonian standards organisation, pursuant to the Technical Regulations and Standards Act. EVS has accepted the World Trade Organisation Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards for the removal of technical barriers to trade.
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