The Classification of Administrative and Settlement Units of Estonia

Administrative units of Estonia's territory are county (in Estonian "*maakond*"), rural municipality ("*vald*") and city ("*linn*"). The territory of Estonia is divided into counties. The county is divided into cities and rural municipalities.

In addition, a rural municipality may be divided into rural municipality districts and city, into city districts. A rural municipality is divided into settlements, which are village (*"küla"*), township (*"alevik"*), town (*"alev"*) and city without municipal status (*"vallasisene linn"*). A city may be divided into urban regions (*"linna asum"*).

According to the Classification of Administrative and Settlement Units of Estonia every administrative and settlement unit has a code, which consists of two parts: an identifying part and a classifying part.

The identification code is unique, consisting of up to four digits. Two-digit codes are used to designate counties, while three-digit codes are used to designate cities and rural municipalities (left zeros are added up to four digits!). Four-digit codes are used to designate settlements without administration (cities without municipal status, rural towns, township, villages, etc.).

The classifying part of code determines the placement of an administrative or settlement unit in counties (two-digit) and local government units (three-digit), and a type of unit (one-digit).

The classification characteristics are:
a) County pointer (for municipalities and settlements it is a county code, left zeros omitted, for counties 00),
b) Municipality pointer (for settlements it is a municipality code, left zero omitted, for cities and rural municipalities 000),
c) Object type pointer (county – 0, rural municipality - 1, town – 3, city - 4, city without municipal status – 5, city district – 6, township – 7, village – 8, urban regions and other units without municipal status - 9).