



**EMEDUS**  
Europe Media Education

## **WP3. Formal Media Education**

# **ESTONIA**



## 1. Frameworks: Education System



In Estonia the Ministry of Education and Research is the agency that organizes and manages the country's education system through a centralized system.

Primary and junior secondary education are grouped in one single level, starting at age 7 and ending at 16, comprising 9 years of compulsory schooling. Senior secondary education, which offers four different options within the general or vocational training, is not compulsory.

## 2. Policies in Media Literacy

The Estonian government, together with private companies, associations and individuals, created the Tiger Leap Foundation to launch the Tiger Leap program in 1997 with three objectives: 1. Adapt schools; 2. Train teachers and 3. Renew the curriculum according to the changing needs of the knowledge society.

**The Tiger Leap Foundation is working on several initiatives to implement ICT in schools**

Currently there is no official document on policy for the development of ICT in schools. However, the Tiger Leap Foundation has worked on several initiatives in 2012-13: ICT in science education, robotics, virtual school (virtual networks for teachers, web-based tools to create content and learning environments, etc), network security and a program for teacher training in methodology of ICT in schools and web 2.0.

## 3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

Media education in Estonia is not listed as a specific subject in the curriculum. It integrates transversely in other subjects, especially in Estonian language, social science, civic studies and ICT and at all education levels. Some examples are: the transversal subject called "Contexts of Information" that combines elements of unmediated and mediated communication, which includes mass media; and the compulsory subject in Estonian called "Media and its influences" that was implemented in 2012/13 in secondary education.



The goal of media literacy in schools is to help students improve their expression skills as well as critically analyze texts in order to enhance

their communicative competence.

#### 4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

There is no formal system of monitoring or inspecting advances in media literacy. Only the Tiger Leap Foundation monitors the progress of its various projects and has an overall view of the situation of students, teachers and principals in schools.

#### 5. Teacher Media Training

The new *Strategy for Teacher Training 2008-2013* does not mention anything about the need to incorporate media education in teacher training.

**Estonia does not include the need to incorporate media education in teacher training**

Teacher training colleges decide freely whether or not to integrate ICT in initial teacher training although most include basic ICT skills in their curriculum and offer a list of optional courses in new methodologies to work on in classrooms.

The Tiger Leap Foundation finances and runs most in-service ICT courses. The foundation encourages teachers through campaigns and competitions with, for example, the annual prize for best teacher in the use of new technologies which the Tiger Leap Conference awards.

#### 6. ICT in Schools

The keys to the inclusion of ICT in Estonian schools can be summarized as follows:

- Schools are highly digitized.
- Schools have good equipment, fast broadband and high connectivity (especially in high schools).

Since 1997 various programs have been launched to: improve the quality of education through new technologies, ensure ICT skills of teachers and students and support e-learning initiatives in schools, universities and other institutions. The following programs stand out: the *Tiger Learning Development Plan 2006-2009* with the *Koolielu* platform, the *Laptop for Teachers / Students Program in 2008*, the *ICT Leadership and Self-Assessment Program* in 2012, and in 2013 *Proge Tiger*.

## Annex. Country Key Features

(a)	Languages	Estonian (official) 67.3%, Russian 29.7%, other 2.3%, unknown 0.7% (2000 census)
	Population	1,266,375 (July 2013 est.)
	Major cities	TALLINN (capital) 399,000 (2009)
	Government type	Parliamentary republic
	GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)	\$28.44 billion (2012 est.)
	GDP real growth rate	2.4% (2012 est.)
	GDP per capita (PPP)	\$21,200 (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 3.7% Industry: 30.2% Services: 66.1% (2012 est.)
	GDP per head (PPS)	67.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100)
(c)	Year of EU entry	2004
	Currency	Member of the eurozone since 2011 (€)
	Schengen area	Member of the Schengen area since 2007
(d)	Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000)	247,0 (year 2010)
	Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000)	73,0 (year 2010)
	Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000)	42,0 (year 2010)
	Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000)	53,3 (year 2010)
	Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000)	9,7 (year 2010)

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

- (a) Central Intelligence Agency (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>]

- (b) European Commission (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Estonia*. Directorate-General Regional Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm)]
- (c) European Union (2013). Member states of the EU. European Union [Retrieved from: [http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm)]
- (d) Eurostat (2013). Education and training. Pupils and students (tps00051). File: educ\_ilev.xls [Retrieved from: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main\\_tables](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main_tables)]

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<http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee/>

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<http://www.hm.ee/index.php?1511055>

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[http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20I%20\(2006-9\)/EU%20Kids%20Online%20I%20Reports/WP3NationalReportEstonia.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20I%20(2006-9)/EU%20Kids%20Online%20I%20Reports/WP3NationalReportEstonia.pdf)

Plataforma Koolielu  
<http://www.koolielu.ee/>

Proge Tiger  
<http://www.tiigrihype.ee/en/programming-schools-and-hobby-clubs>

Programas para la mejora de la calidad de la educación por medio de las nuevas tecnologías  
<http://itec.eun.org/web/guest/ee-key-groups>

The Tiger Leap Foundation  
<http://www.tiigrihype.ee/et>