

Action plan of Estonia 2020 for 2018–2020

Adopted by the Government of the Republic of Estonia on 26 April 2018

Action plan for, and implementation time of each measure by challenge (new and amended measures are highlighted in blue)

Challenge/Measure	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Authority responsible for the measure	CSF	Summary of the implementation of the measures
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EDUCATED PEOPLE AND COHESIVE SOCIETY

1. Improving the quality of the educational system and adapting it to demographic changes											
I. Ensuring high-quality education at all education levels											
a.	Development and implementation of measures to motivate local authorities to increase the salaries of kindergarten teachers to the minimum level of school teachers				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Continued activity in accordance with the basic principles of the coalition.
b.	Increasing the average pay for teachers to a level that makes a teachers' job a desirable career choice	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Continued activity in accordance with the basic principles of the coalition to raise the wages of teachers to 120% of the average wages in Estonia.	
c.	Payment of beginners' allowance to teachers and support specialists who assume their position for the first time	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		In 2017, 40 teachers received the beginner's allowance. In 2018, support specialists began to receive the beginner's allowance.	
d.	Analysing the subject syllabi of lower and upper secondary school to improve learning and teaching		x	x	x	x		Ministry of Education and Research		Improving subject syllabi is continued, i.e. their better integration with the principles of the general parts of the national curricula and thereby the optimisation of study load.	
e.	Developing educational centres of excellence at universities responsible for teacher training		x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Continued activity. The universities responsible for teacher training have forwarded their projects of activities. Financing decisions were adopted in 2016; the activities were subject to interim assessment by foreign experts in autumn 2017.	
f.	The development and implementation of a performance evaluation model for school principals	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Continued activity. In 2014, the working party developed the principles. Implementation requires amendment of the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act, and the legislative intent has been submitted. Education manager's competence model has been updated and piloted and is in use.	

g.	Implementation of the "Interesting school" initiative and gradual development of a broad-based and all-inclusive school reform movement which would include society's various interest groups		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity. The objective of the initiative is to motivate schools, parents, and the wider community to cooperate, make what is happening in the schools visible, and acknowledge persons who have already been successful in making the school interesting.
h.	Providing 30% extra pay to Estonian-medium teachers in Ida-Viru county	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity, completed for previous years.
i.	Increasing the quality of Estonian as a second language teachings in kindergartens through ensuring additional training for kindergarten teachers and the necessary study guides				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	The area was analysed in 2017 and an action plan was prepared, including a procurement for acquisition of study materials. In 2018, the focus is on the transition from kindergarten to school and review of the relevant curricula to ensure a more seamless transition. Refresher training for teachers will also continue.
j.	Carrying out a pilot programme that will allow pedagogically grounded flexibility regarding carrying out language and curriculum studies in certain designated gymnasiums, along with a more intensive teaching of the Estonian languages so that gymnasium graduates will achieve C1 level proficiency in Estonian within six years				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	A new activity based on the principles of the coalition. The programme runs from 2017 to 2023 and it will be carried out in three schools from the 7th grade. The programme will include all students of all participating schools studying in the 7th grade in the academic year of 2017/18.
k.	Providing additional Estonian language studies to students of vocational and higher education as well as educational employees whose mothertongue is not Estonian	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	The activity will be continue.
l.	Implementing measures to improve the quality of Estonian language teaching in Russian-medium lower-secondary schools to ensure that those leaving school will have reached the 'independent user' level in Estonian	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	The activity will be continued – schools are supported in implementing out-of-school activities (camps, student exchange etc.).
m.	Ensuring the provision of internationally recognised English medium level education by developing the European Schools in Estonia and promoting IB studies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	The activity will be continued. Education in compliance with the IB curriculum will be ensured in Tallinn and Tartu and education in compliance with the European School curriculum will be ensured at Tallinn European School.
n.	Integrated planning of post-lower secondary study slots in general and vocational education, based on regional forecasts and characteristics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity. When planning the number of student places for state upper secondary schools in large cities and county centres, the number of students of general education and vocational education institutions as well as adult students will be taken into account.

o.	Reorganisation of the network of upper secondary schools and starting the investments' programme with a view to improving the quality of the entire school network	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity. Adjustment of the network of schools and establishment of state upper secondary schools are being carried out. In the academic year of 2017/2018, there were 12 state upper secondary schools. On 1 September 2018, state upper secondary schools will begin working in Viimsi, Rapla, and Paide. On 1 September 2019, a state upper secondary school will begin working in Kohtla-Järve. Preliminary agreements regarding the establishment of state upper secondary schools have been made with the cities of Rakvere, Narva, and Tallinn as well as with the rural municipalities of Saaremaa, Harku, Saue, and Rae. Twenty-two local municipalities that had organised their school network received support for basic schools from the first round of the measure "Organisation of the basic school network in 2014–2020". The investment programme of the second round of the measure will be approved this year. Measures to support schools for children with special needs and for inclusive education will be opened.
p.	Reviewing the proportions of funding provided to different types of education, with emphasis on effectiveness (incl. applying performance financing component in vocational education)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	In general education the financing model has been updated with emphasis on efficiency through the school network reform. The principles of the new financing model of vocational education have been developed, the implementation of the model and introduction of performance funding depends on the accessibility of additional funds. At higher education level, the new financing model that includes a performance funding component was introduced on 1 January 2017. The Ministry of Education and Research participated in the education system efficiency survey conducted by OECD; the survey resulted in policy suggestions by OECD and involved experts.
2. To align training and education with the needs of the modern labour market (including making better use of the potential of the EU internal market and other policies) and to increase the proportion of people with specialised education at the vocational or higher education levels										
I. Ensuring the availability of educated and skilled labour corresponding to the needs of the modern labour market										

a.	Developing a competence-based system of forecasting labour needs including the need for foreign labour (incl. review of OSKA methodology and a concept of methodology and implementation for the period 2020+)		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	OSKA, the forecasting system for labour market need, was launched within the ESF programme “Development of a monitoring and forecasting system for labour market need”. An improved forecasting method, labour force, and skills needs surveys in eleven economic fields and an overview “Work and skills 2025” discussing future trends that influence the labour market were completed. In future, five economic sectors will be analysed in a year and by 2020, all economic sectors will have been analysed. In 2018, the CEDEFOP project “Governance of EU skills anticipation and matching systems: in-depth country reviews”, which will result in proposals for further development of the skills analysis and supply system, will be presented in the first half of 2019.
b.	Development of a professional qualification system to promote a bridging between the worlds of education and work	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Ongoing activity; important developments have occurred due to the amendment of the Professions Act and launch of the OSKA system.
c.	Promoting adult education with the aim of increasing the formal education participation of adults who have not completed secondary education, providing in-service training and increasing participation in lifelong learning		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Conditions for granting support were adopted on 8 June 2015. During 2016–2017, over 25,200 people have improved their skills at free refresher courses. Sixteen projects for the total sum of over 2.6 million euros were granted support from the ESF application round “Bringing adults of low education level to formal education acquired within the adult education system and supporting their participation in study”. Information dissemination activities were carried out, conditions conducive to learning and support services to aid staying studying and successful graduating were created. To develop the VÕTA system in the upper secondary schools for adults, trainings on the quality, assessment, and consultancy of the VÕTA system and several development seminars have been organised. To develop key competences, eight projects are being implemented in 2017 and a project approved in the first round will be launched in 2018. As the result of nine projects, training is offered to 5,387 participants. One of the projects is intended to develop digital competence and social skills of welfare and health care specialists; one project offers personal development courses for disabled people and one project is designed to organise language and personal development cafes in different regions to improve Estonian language skills of residents with different mother tongue than the Estonian language.

d.	Development of work-based learning in vocational education; additional apprenticeship opportunities are being created and traineeship systems for vocational and higher educational institutions are being developed			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity. Additional places will be created up to the year 2020 and the best cooperation models for Estonian companies and educational institutions will be developed. Within the framework of development of higher education traineeship system, finding traineeship places for foreign students is also supported.
e.	Establishing Estonian Language Houses in Tallinn and Narva to improve the opportunities of non-native speakers to learn Estonian					x	x	x	Ministry of Culture	Continued activity. An Estonian Language House is expected to be opened in Tallinn in November 2018 and in Narva in January 2019. Substantial activities will commence already in 2018. The activity of Estonian Language Houses will continue until 2020 and in following years.
f.	Analysis of support services required for specialists/families returning to Estonia					x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	The analysis could discuss an overview of the current situation (what type of support and services are currently offered), proposals to improve the existing services and for adding new services and proposals for amendment of the system. At the state level, a round table bringing together all parties has been called to deal with this issue and an international education working party has begun its work at the Ministry of Education and Research.
II. Supporting the educational path and career choices of young people to increase students' awareness of the working world and reduce the number of school dropouts										
a.	The provision of services within the framework of youth guarantee measures for young people aged between 16 and 29 in order to provide working, education and training opportunities (the "First job" support scheme combined with training; measures to involve and activate youth not active in employment, education or training)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research	Youth guarantee measures were developed and provision of services commenced in January 2015. NEET youth support measure was launched in 2015. Activities of the youth guarantee falling under the government of the Ministry of Education and Research: a) support services are offered within the programme "Noorte Tugila" designed for the NEET young people of 15–26 years of age, b) pupils of upper secondary schools can take up a traineeship in a local non-government organisation within the community practice programme, c) supporting implementation of ideas of young people that they have come up with on their own initiative, which enables young people to apply for support for a project/idea that they would like to implement at their home location, d) summer work programme that gives young people an opportunity to get their first work experience, learn about different jobs and employment legislation, e) the young people are introduced various positions in the metal and woodworking industry and the profession of a nurse and a bioanalyst within the activity of vocational laboratories.

b.	Ensuring career services for young people at lower and upper secondary levels as well as higher education levels	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Education and Research	The programme “Development of career services system” of the previous period was successfully completed in 2014 and a new education and career services programme was launched. In all counties, Rajaleidja centres were opened that offer integrated education and careers counselling services for children and young people, parents, employees of educational institutions and other specialists working with children. During 2014–2020, individual education counselling and career services will be offered to at least 174,930 children and young people. Careers counselling services for students over 26 years of age are guaranteed through the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund and the career centres of universities. Consolidation of these services under the Unemployment Insurance Fund from 2019 is being considered.
c.	Development and testing of the youth guarantee support system to identify young people who are inactive without a reason, including NEET youths, with the help of state registers and offering them help to continue their studies or to move into the labour market				x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	The conditions for the support intended developing and testing of the youth guarantee support system have been prepared. Development of IT solutions and management organisation model has begun that will be tested in 2018-2019.
d.	Support for employers in providing short-term work opportunities for underage youth				x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	The conditions for granting the support are being developed. This support can be applied for from the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund in 2018 and it is paid retrospectively, e.g. in 2018 for 2017.
e.	Analysis related to decreasing the number of young people with low education levels and prolonging the compulsory school attendance age				x	x		Ministry of Education and Research	A new activity in accordance with the principles of the coalition.
III. Developing entrepreneurship and other key competences									

a.	Implementation of a study concept developing entrepreneurialism and entrepreneurial studies at all education levels and across all educational fields; the creation of methodology and study materials needed to ensure all students have an opportunity to take entrepreneurial studies			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	A model of entrepreneurship competences and modules for entrepreneurship training (15 of 16 modules) for all education levels and types have been developed, refresher trainings for teachers of business are conducted, instructing of student companies and preliminary incubation is supported, research is conducted and the public is informed about the need for entrepreneurship education. As at the end of 2017, 296 schools participated in the programme with the aim of implementing entrepreneurship education, including 47% of all general education schools, 85% of vocational schools and 90% of higher education institutions. 64% of the education institutions that participated in the programme have introduced the entrepreneurship education model (including 69% of the general education schools, 29% of vocational schools and 47% of higher education institutions that participated in the programme).
b.	More active involvement of entrepreneurs in the development of training objectives and definition of learning outcomes for different types of schools		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Involving entrepreneurs is an important aspect of the life-long education strategy (e.g. Objective 1 “Changed approach to education”, Objective 3 “Matching of life-long education opportunities and labour market needs”). Input is gained from OSKA reports and the impact analysis of the OSKA system to be conducted in 2018 that should provide us with an assessment of how successful are the entrepreneurs’ involvement mechanisms.
3. Increasing international competitiveness of higher education										
a.	4. Increasing the impact of active labour market policy and sustainability of financing		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Payment of scholarships for smart specialisation at the first and second level of higher education began in the middle of the academic year of 2015/2016. In 2017, the quota assigned to higher education institutions was adjusted to align it better with the exit strategy of the measure. Therefore, during the year, scholarships were given to 1,912 students. No problems are foreseen for the uptake of the measure activity. Doctorial grants were paid to 89 doctoral students in 2017.

b.	SF programme "Institutional development programme for research and development institutions and higher education institutions"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research
c.	SF measure "Facilitating the internationalisation of research and higher education"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research
4. Increasing the impact of active labour market policy and sustainability of financing									
I. Improving the quality and efficiency of the provision of labour market measures									

<p>The measures of the activity are divided into two parts: investments into buildings and substantial activities to develop the quality of education and research. The Government of the Republic approved the investment on 9 June 2016. Construction or renovation of seven research and education-related buildings is supported with 54.1 million euros. Construction of most of the objects has begun. Substantial activities use up 67.4 million euros. Substantial activities are deemed to be activities, such as structural reorganisation of universities, activities intended for improving the quality of education and research, improvement of quality of doctoral education, activities intended for increasing international competitiveness and strengthening cooperation between research and development institutions, higher education institutions and companies.</p>
<p>Internationalisation and mobility of higher education and successors support programme "Dora Pluss" will continue. In 2017, learning mobility of 675 young researchers and Masters students (up to 30 days) and 93 Doctoral students (1–10 months) in a higher education institution abroad was supported. In addition, the studies of 361 foreign Masters students and 50 foreign Doctoral students in Estonia were supported and visits of 28 Doctoral students to Estonian higher education institutions were supported. All indicators have been achieved as planned, except for involving foreign Doctoral students in Estonian higher education institutions (uptake 45% of planned in 2017). The activity will be reviewed in 2018.</p>

a.	Implementation of the work capacity reform (incl. creating a system for assessing work capacity, the provision of services to the target group, the necessary information exchange IT solutions for implementing the activities and condition for providing grants "The provision of labour market services to the work capacity reform target group" and "Increasing the work capacity of the work capacity reform target group and promoting their working")		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	<p>Development and notification necessary to ensure sustainability of the new work ability support system are carried out and analysis are conducted to verify that the system is functional and to identify further development needs. In order to ensure financial sustainability of the new work ability system, the financial model of the Work Ability Reform will be developed further (2017–2020 framework agreement). Effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of using the employment services provided to people with decreased work ability is analysed, and, if necessary, services will be developed or changed. Achievement of the objectives set down by the Work Ability Reform and the intended performance of the work ability assessment method is analysed and, if necessary, development activities will be planned. To ensure correct assessments of work ability, expert doctors assessing work ability will undergo refresher training. In order to ensure the necessary number of doctors and assess work ability for the Unemployment Insurance Fund, new expert doctors will be trained in work ability assessment method. To improve the knowledge of the target group and support them in the process of work ability assessment, cooperation in the provision of counselling service is organised with the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People. Information dissemination is continued to improve the knowledge about the new work ability system. The information exchange systems for the assessment of work ability is developed further. In 2020, a summary analysis of the implementation of the measures of the new work ability support system will be prepared and it will be the basis for the preparation of the operational plan for further implementation of the measures based on results and a financing plan.</p>
b.	The integration of the physical therapy and rehabilitation systems into a single customer-centred whole system in order to offer timely and smoothly functioning services			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	<p>To better integrate the systems and services, the services offered currently have been mapped and the overlapping services and differences between systems have been analysed. Two pilot projects have been launched (a pilot project concerning people that have acquired schizophrenia for the first time, ICF pilot project) and three audits to assess the quality and overlapping of the rehabilitation system. A comprehensive mapping will be initiated to create the basis for better exchange of information between the systems.</p>

c.	Provision of social services to support the participation of people with special needs, and the burden of care on the labour market (Structural funds measure "Welfare measures to support participation in the labour market") and improvement of the quality of social services		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	Ten projects from the first application round conducted in 2016 will be funded from the ESF budget in the amount of 2.3 million euros, which will be added cost-sharing of the applicants (at least 15%). The projects of the first round commenced in the first part of 2017 and the activities will run for up to two years. The second local authorities' open application round will be announced in spring 2018. In both rounds, the development and provision of home service, support person service, personal helper service and general care services offered outside of home (daily care or interval care service) will be supported. The third open application round for a larger circle of applicants (in addition to local authorities, applicants are other providers of services, both institutions and private companies administrated by the local authorities) for the development and provision of social services will be opened in the first half of 2019. In the second half of 2018, we will pilot the development of social transport through public transportation centres.
d.	Use of innovative solutions in the development and provision of social services				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	Within the structural funds measure "Welfare measures to support participation in labour market", innovation events were conducted (second half of 2017) and an application round will be announced (first half of 2018) to motivate the creation of innovative implementation ideas and support turning the best ideas into functioning solutions.
e.	Provision of in-service training and re-training services to employed people to preclude unemployment				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		The Government of the Republic approved the services to prevent unemployment at its session on 17 November 2016. From 1 May 2017, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund starts to offer working people employment training and support for participation in formal education acquired within the adult education system. Employers can also apply for training support to improve the skills of their employees.
f.	Creating and implementing a national "Diverse Workplace" sign to recognise the companies that promote diversity and equality			x	x	x			Ministry of Social Affairs	1	"Diverse workplace" label concept (content of the label, principles of receipt and functioning thereof and a communication plan) was completed in April 2017 led by the Human Rights Centre. The activities to implement the label model will be implemented by the deadline 15 May 2018. The first diversity labels will be given over to at least 15 organisations at the Diversity Label Conference on 21 March 2018. The following activities of the implementation of the label model have been presented in the additional application to the State Budget Strategy for 2019–2022.

g.	The provision of career counselling services to people of the working age (SF measure "Developing the competences of the adult population", Action "Working age individuals who have received career counselling")	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		Continued activity: in 2014 the conditions for granting the support "Improving accessibility to career services" was prepared, based on which careers counselling for working and non-active people is offered.
h.	To provide measures for helping retirement aged workers to stay in employment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		Continued activity: in 2014, the conditions for granting the support "Better opportunities for participation in employment" was approved, based on which employment services are offered to people in retirement age.
i.	Authorising the Labour Inspectorate to monitor the remuneration and benefits paid by public sector employers to men and women for equal work or work of equal value		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	A memorandum of the amending draft Gender Equality Act, which gives the Labour Inspectorate rights to supervise gender pay gap in public sector, was approved at the Government of the Republic cabinet session in February 2018. The draft Act will be sent for the first round to the Drafts Information System in March and should reach the Riigikogu in June 2018.
j.	Regular gender pay gap audits in the public sector within the public sector yearbook				x	x			Ministry of Finance	1	An overview of gender pay gap in public service by authorities will be presented in the public service annual report each spring.
k.	Assessment and comparison guidelines supporting the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	To decrease pay gap, the Labour Inspectorate will be given authority to perform supervision over salaries and benefits paid by the employer to women and men for same or equal work in public sector. To that end, a draft amendment to the Gender Equality Act will be prepared and sent to the Government of the Republic. The deadline of the draft is July 2018 and it is expected to enter into force in July 2020. To implement supervision, competence, instructions for assessment and comparison of same and equal jobs will be prepared. Same or equal job is a job that is of the same or equal complexity, responsibility, and difficulty and which is performed in same or equal conditions and during which the same or a comparative result is achieved.
l.	Increasing the knowledge about stereotypic career choices for schoolchildren through career days for boys and girls and through primary and high school subject "Career education"			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research	1	Continued activity. Students are offered an elective subject "Career education" within the national curriculum.
m.	Increasing the regional labour supply (SF measure "Better opportunities for participating in employment")	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		Continued activity: in the first half of 2015, a service for improvement of regional labour force supply within the conditions for granting the support "Better opportunities for participation in employment" was developed; the mobility support was launched in 2016.

n.	An analysis and proposals on the extension of health insurance coverage					x			Ministry of Social Affairs		The wording of the activity is updated in accordance with the action programme of the Government of the Republic.
o.	Introducing the cross-border recruitment opportunities opened up by the updating of EURES, the EU's job mobility portal, to job seekers and employers			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		By now, the regulation has been adopted and Estonia is in the process of preparing a system to receive members and partners in the EURES network, which should be created no later than by May 2018.
p.	Developing proposals to preclude and decrease burden of care in order to support the labour market participation of long-term caregivers and the subsistence of households with a member who needs long-term care			x	x	x			Government Office	1	The task force established in 2015 to reduce care load presented their final report to the Government in December 2017. In accordance with the results of the work of the task force and based on section 11.8 of the action programme of the Government of the Republic (we reduce the load of family caregivers, taking into account the proposals made by the care load task force), the Government of the Republic was submitted an analysis of initial measures and proposals on how to reduce care load for approval in autumn 2017. In compliance with the proposals of the task force, the Government decided that the Ministry of Social Affairs must present the Government a concept of the planned changes in the long-term welfare system.
q.	Care coordination pilot project					x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs		Based on the suggestions made by the care load task force, a pilot project of care coordination will be launched in six Estonian regions in 2018. The objective of the pilot project is to create human-centred and coordinated care organisation for people with extensive and complex care needs.
r.	Development of volunteer activities in social sector					x	x		Ministry of Social Affairs		To promote the creation of a practice of targeted involvement and using volunteers in the care system, a pilot project will be conducted in different regions of Estonia in 2018–2019 (nine local authorities in northern Estonia, nine local authorities in southern Estonia), the objective of which is to test the cooperation model between local authorities, care institutions, and volunteer organisations and to develop a pan-Estonian cooperation model for the involvement and using volunteers in the care system based on the results of testing. During the testing, volunteers will help elderly people and people with special needs. As a result of the project, a cooperation model of using volunteers in the care system suitable for Estonia will be developed.
II. The development of family policies in order to better reconcile work and family life											

a.	The creation of childcare and kindergarten placements, paying attention to under-three-year-olds and focusing on the municipalities with the greatest lack of placements and the provision of flexible and close-to-home services (incl. an analysis and proposals on ensuring flexible child care)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Research	The conditions for granting the support for the measure “Development of welfare services for child care and disabled children to decrease care load” were developed and approved by the Minister of Social Protection in November 2014. The first application round for the ESF measure was conducted in 2015 and during it, 568 new jobs were created. The application round conducted within the framework of the measure helps local authorities to create new kindergarten and child care places. The measure regulation was approved in spring 2015. The activities contribute to the state based proposal no. 2, as they improve accessibility of child care service, and the state based proposal no. 5, because they support local authorities to offer public services (child care, early education, support person). The second application round opened on 26 February 2018. In the second round, it is possible to create regular groups as well as specific child care places.
b.	Analysis and proposals for changing the system of parental leave and parental benefits in order to allow a more flexible combination of work and family life		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	In December 2017, the Riigikogu passed Package1 of the amendments to the Act. In March 2018, Package 2 of the amendments to the Act will be sent for approval. The changes will enter into force gradually during 2018–2022. The first two amendments - enabling earning a larger income concurrently without reducing the size of parental benefit and support for triplets and more multiple births entered into force on 1 March 2018.
c.	Development of the system of family benefits		x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance	The amendments of the Act to increase child allowance (raising the allowance for the first and second child to 60 euros by year 2019) and the payment of support for families with many children were adopted in 2015 and for raising the allowance for families with many children in 2016. The subsistence level has been raised to 130 euros. From 2018, the subsistence level will raise to 140 euros a month and the consumption weight of children below 18 years of age to 1.2, i.e. from the former 130 euros to 168 euros a month.

d.	The development of welfare services for disabled children with the goal of minimising the caregiver's development restrictions related to the labour market	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	The conditions for granting support of the measure "Development of welfare services of child care and disabled children to decrease care load" were developed and approved by the Ministry of Social Protection in November 2014. Within the framework of the conditions for granting the support, support services designed for children with severe and profound disability will be developed and offered, thereby reducing parents' care load and hindrances in participating in employment. Offering three support services (child care, support person, and transport service) is still active. Development activities that support offering of services are implemented, local authorities and parents are counselled, and information is disseminated.
e.	Implementation of the family-friendly employer sign model		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1	Family friendly employer label model has been developed. Family friendly employer label model is in the process of being implemented and two competitions have been conducted to involve employers. 74 participants are actively participating in the programme.
f.	Implementation of the childcare and pre-school education concept		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Social Affairs		Based on the early childhood education and child care concept, the legislative intent of the draft Preschool Child Care Institutions Act has been developed and discussions with target groups to develop early childhood education have been held. The draft Act will be submitted in 2018.
5. Increasing the healthy years of life by improving health related behaviours and reducing the number of											
I. Reducing the number of injuries and deaths from injuries and improving health related behaviour											

a.	Initiation and implementation of an evidence-based parenting programme to prevent risky behaviour	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. The main objective of implementing the parenting programme "The Incredible Years" is to prevent and reduce mental health problems in children, violent behaviour of parents, and to prevent long-term consumption of substances causing dependency by children and their criminal behaviour, saving costs in healthcare and social welfare area when dealing with these problems. The programme creates a safe and supportive environment for raising children which encourages children and deepens the belief that, if necessary, raising children will be supported even if problems arise. The current budget enables implementing the programme in the case of 300 parents on average and supporting local authorities with c. 50% from the budget of one training group to be conducted. The activity is coordinated by the National Institute for Health Development.
b.	Implementation of an action plan developed by Task Force for the prevention and reduction of injury-related deaths		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	The activities launched by the injuries task force will be continued and coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.
c.	Development and improvement of additional light traffic roads, recreational sites, tracks, trails and the related infrastructure (in 2015-2020 supported from the SF measures "Improving regional competitiveness", "Sustainable development of urban areas" and "Sustainable development of the cities of Ida-Viru county")	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture	The implementation has been successful so far. Starting from 2014 at least 27 traffic safety increasing projects have been supported and 7 more granted the right to apply within the cycle and pedestrian support scheme, which totally amounts to 10 mio euros (financed from the state budget). SF-financed measures "Sustainable development of urban regions" and "Sustainable development of Ida-Viru County urban regions" with implementation period from 2014 to 2020 account for 37 financed projects aimed to establishing internal cycle and pedestrian tracks in urban regions, totally amounting to more than 21 mio euros. In addition to that more than 20 centre-hinterland connections, industrial area access roads and cycle and pedestrian tracks have been supported from SF-financed measure "Regional competitiveness strengthening investments support scheme" with total budget of 15 mio euros.
d.	Implementation of measures to promote active lifestyles, including the development and piloting of measures supporting exercise habits in the school environment and local community	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity – creating opportunities to be involved in sports for all (including for special needs people) and supporting sports for all activities. Schools are offered an opportunity to participate in the sports for all programme.

e.	Implementation of the green paper on alcohol use in order to reduce alcohol-related damage to health and society	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. Under the management of the Ministry of Social Affairs, an inter-ministerial working party for the implementation of the measures (a monitoring table of activities and responsible persons), the treatment guidelines of alcohol dependency was completed, the programme “Sober and healthy Estonia” (ESF 2014–2020) is carried out, the programme “Effect” to prevent alcohol consumption by the young people is conducted, National Institute for Health Development’s alcohol consumption prevention campaign, an application round directed to the prevention of alcohol use of the Norwegian financial mechanism, the Riigikogu passed on 20 December 2017 a draft amendment to the Alcohol Act and Advertising Act (limiting accessibility and advertising).
f.	Implementation of the green paper on tobacco use in order to reduce tobacco-related damage to health and society	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. A working party established by a ministerial order to develop the tobacco policy, implement the Green Paper measures, and transpose the EU tobacco directive; the Riigikogu passed on 13 December 2017 an amendment of the Tobacco Act to limit tobacco displays and give rights to the Police and Border Guard Board to make purchases for the purpose of monitoring compliance and involve, if necessary, as a supervisory action persons of at least 16 years old and impose a requirement of asking of a document from a client that purchases a tobacco or an associated product, and give Taxation and Customs Board the right to perform purchases for the purpose of monitoring compliance; in 2018, work continues to transpose articles 15 and 16 of EU Directive 2014/40/EU (measures to fight smuggling of tobacco products). Activities in all Green Paper areas that aim at reducing the number of daily smokers in Estonia and thereby health risks, damages, and costs due to smoking are implemented.
g.	Preparing a green paper on diet and exercise	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. The expected completion time of the Green Paper is 2018.
h.	Continuing of regular communication regarding a balanced and healthy diet				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued new activity. Campaigns will be conducted to reduce sugar consumption and promote fruit and vegetable consumption. A summary material of nutrition and sporting suggestions will be prepared for distribution.
i.	Continuing the programme for beginner level swimming classes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research	Continued activity.

j.	Increasing the volume of regular health checks and various health monitoring and screening programmes, with the aim to detect possible health disorders at an early stage	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs
II. Developing the health infrastructure									
a.	Modernisation of health centres (SF measure "Ensuring accessible and high-quality health services in order to promote employment retention, and returning to employment")	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs

Continued activity. The amount of regular health examinations from the budget of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund is on the rise: the funds of preventive health monitoring and screening programmes during 2001–2015 has risen 4%; however, many activities are part of general medical care and cannot be separated (e.g. medical examination of infants and children, examinations to diagnose cardiovascular diseases and diabetes of target groups, etc.).

Continued activity. Regulation "Updating of primary healthcare centres" of the Minister of Health and Labour was approved on 12 August 2015. Application submission for preparing an investment plan was open until 9 May 2016. Altogether, 59 applications were approved. Fifty-six support applications were forwarded by the deadline 8 March 2017, of which 55 were approved as eligible. Signing of the new regulation will take place in March 2018. The second application round will be one-stage and it will be opened at the end of first quarter of 2018. With the amendment of the operational plan, a new output indicator was added – one updated general hospital that networked with primary health care. As at 31 April 2018, three primary healthcare centres are completed (Mustamäe, Tapa, Koeru).

b.	Strengthening of the centres of competence in the hospital network (SF measure "Ensuring accessible and high-quality health services in order to promote employment retention, and returning to employment")	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. Regulation No. 18 "Updating of competence centres of hospital network" of the Minister of Health and Labour of 27 April 2015 was approved. The investments plan is approved, projects are being implemented/prepared. Of the projects of the measure activity 2014–2020, 2.4.1 "Updating of competence centres of hospital network", the second stage of SA Tartu Ülikooli Kliinikum extension and reconstruction construction stage II was completed, the project period was 01.01.2014–31.12.2015. A decision to support the third construction stage of SA Tartu Ülikooli Kliinikum extension and reconstruction project has been made (30 May 2017) and the project is being implemented. The planned start and end of the project period is 01.01.2017–31.12.2022. A decision to support the project of establishment of Y block in the SA Põhja-Eesti Regionaalhaigla Mustamäe medical grounds was made (18 September 2017) and the project is being implemented. The planned start and end of the project period is 12.11.2015–16.12.2022. The support application for the construction project of the Psychiatric Clinic of SA Põhja-Eesti Regionaalhaigla will be submitted in accordance with the approved investments plan on 30 June 2018. The implementation time of the project is expected to last from the second half of 2017 to the second half of 2023.
c.	Implementing the national e-Health strategy in order to use the opportunities provided by ICT development in order to improve public health and develop the healthcare and welfare system	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Government Office, Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity. The strategy was approved at a Government cabinet meeting in December 2015. The operational plan was prepared in 2016. In January 2017, the eHealth strategy council approved priority projects. The projects are regularly monitored twice a year (in January and August). In connection with preparing the National Health Plan 2020–2030, it is planned to integrate the objectives and lines of action of the eHealth strategy into the National Health Plan to be updated in future.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

6. Formulating a policy to facilitate long-term increases in the international competitiveness of companies

I. Modern business environments										
a.	Increasing the proportion of accepted claims of creditors that are satisfied in bankruptcy proceedings; codification of the right of insolvency	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Justice	Codification began in summer and autumn of 2016 and this activity will continue. The review results will be presented in autumn 2018. An insolvency competence centre will be created, the regulation regulating reorganisation and debt restructuring will be improved.

b.	Creation of a bureaucracy-free business form for small businesses - a business account for the sale of services and goods to physical persons or for the sale of goods to legal persons in the maximum amount of €25,000 per year				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	The Act has been adopted, it is expected that banks will begin providing the service from autumn 2018.
c.	Improving the tax environment for shipping companies				x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Activity is added based on the action programme of the Government of the Republic. The Government discussed the proposals made by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure on 17 June 2017 and gave additional tasks to the ministers for preparing draft legislation during this year.
d.	The task force on cutting red tape	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Government Office, Ministry of Finance	The Government formed a task force to coordinate the implementation of proposals made to reduce bureaucracy on 31 March 2016. The Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure presents the Government an overview about the work performed by the task force in Q2 2018. The mandate of the task force is extended until the end of 2018.
e.	Speeding up bankruptcy and execution proceedings; preparing the amendments to the laws related to bankruptcy and enforcement proceedings			x	x	x	x		Ministry of the Environment	In summer and autumn 2016, insolvency proceedings review was initiated. The results of the review will be disclosed in autumn 2018. An insolvency competence centre will be established and the regulation regulating reorganisation and debt restructuring will be improved. As regards execution proceedings, draft legislation is being prepared to improve enforcement of support claims.
f.	Implementation of the Competitiveness 2.0 report (to a certain amount a follow up of the "Entrepreneur's Right 2" programme)	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In autumn 2015, the Minister of Justice convened a steering group comprising entrepreneurs and organisations and associations that unite entrepreneurs to identify the areas that most hinder business and require changing or to make proposals to the Government how to facilitate business and boost economy. The members of the steering group made 123 proposals on the development of the business environment. The Competitiveness 2.0 Report highlights 64 of them. The activities that are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice are being implemented, and laws on insolvency and associations are being reviewed.

g.	To update the action plan for north-eastern Estonia (Ida-Viru county) with regard to the activities aimed at developing the regional business environment and prepare a similar action plan for south-eastern Estonia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Monitoring and updating of Ida-Viru County and south-eastern Estonia action plans for 2015–2020 has been carried out regularly once a year. At the Government cabinet meeting on 8 February 2018, it was decided to start the implementation of the Ida-Virumaa programme from the second half of 2018 (the programme will be developed in the first half of 2018). The objective of the programme is to boost economy in Ida-Virumaa, increase the attractiveness of the region as a living environment, decelerate outflow of younger people, and reduce the development gap of the region compared to other regions in Estonia by prioritising this region in terms of development. The indicative volume of the programme is 3.8 million euros in 2018 and 4,95 million euros from 2019. Similarly to the Ida-Viru County programme, the launching of south-eastern Estonia programme in 2019 has been discussed to help decelerate the reduction of the size of population and improve business and labour market indicators in south-eastern Estonia.
h.	Physical, social and economic revival of underused city areas by using SF measure "Sustainable development of the cities of Ida-Viru county"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Action plans have been approved within the measure, based on which, applications for support to implement the projects are being received.
i.	To support the development of the business environment by using SF measures "Improving regional competitiveness" and "Development of regional competence centres"	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Activities continue. The implementation of measures regarding improving the competitiveness of the regions and development of regional competence centres is going as planned. As at the end of 2017, financing decisions from the measure for improving the competitiveness of the region to implement 21 regional business and industrial infrastructure development and incubation and product development centres projects have been made for the total support amount of over 16 million euros. In 2017, the second application round of the measure was opened in all counties and in three counties (Harju County, Ida-Viru County, Jõgeva County) the round was completed. Preparations for organising the measure's reserve projects round were made in 2017.

j.	Raising the competitiveness of the business environment through cross-border collaboration (EE-LV, EE-RU, The Mid-Baltic Sea programmes)		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	As at 1 March 2018, altogether 35 cooperation projects with Latvia, Sweden, and Finland within the Estonia-Latvia and Central Baltic Sea programmes have been supported, where the contribution of Estonia's partners is in total 12,367,151 euros. The objective of the projects is to develop and market common services and goods for third foreign markets, to improve cooperation between entrepreneurs of the region and promote young people's enterprise. The short description of Estonia-Russia large project "Reconstruction of Saatse-Krupa road section – SME ACCESS" has been approved by EC with Estonia's contribution of 1,424,800 euros. The project will improve road infrastructure in the region for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and develop relationships between SMEs in the border region.
k.	Developing and implementing a green paper of Estonian industrial policies		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The industrial policy document is prepared (2017). Proposals will be taken into consideration when new related development plans are being prepared.
l.	Analysis of identifying the owners of public e-Services, and implementation of relevant proposals	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Regulation "Basics of organisation of services and information management" of the Government of the Republic is implemented. The regulation entered into force on 3 June 2017. The service mapping environment riigiteenus.ee is developed; it can be accessed by the owners of the services assigned by the authorities.
m.	Analysis and proposals for the creation of an international consortium for the joint development of the base infrastructure of services		x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In 2015, negotiations were initiated with Finland for joint development and administration of X-road and other basic infrastructure. In July 2017, non-profit organisation Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions was founded with Finland for joint development and administration of X-road and other basic infrastructure. The next step is technical linking of state information systems of Estonia and Finland via the X-road.
n.	To recognise the importance of socially and environmentally responsible entrepreneurship at the government level and promote socially and environmentally responsible entrepreneurship	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In 2015, responsible business was for the first time one of the Business Awards categories. This category is planned to be implemented with an interval of two years. Next time will be 2017. In 2016, an analysis of possibilities of development of socially responsible business in Estonia was prepared. In 2018, we consider the analysis and implementation of the relevant OECD procedures.

o.	We promote the exploitation of e-commerce opportunities					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	We implement the EU geo-blocking regulation, organise information days for entrepreneurs to improve their awareness of EU legislation, develop cooperation with the E-Commerce Association for mapping the needs and opportunities of entrepreneurs, protect the interests of Estonian entrepreneurs at negotiations in EU about the so-called platforms draft legislation.
p.	Improvement of supervision to ensure balanced business environment					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	We make a proposal to merge the tasks and personnel of the Consumer Protection Board and the Technical Regulatory Authority from 1 January 2019 and establish Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority with the aim of improving state supervision and ensure sustainability of the authority. We are preparing the operational plan for cooperation of the consumer protection authorities along with specifying the procedure of the Consumer Disputes Committee. The regulation is expected to enter into force in January 2020. We are carrying out activities necessary for the effective enforcement of the Tourism Act, including notifying entrepreneurs and consumers, development of public services, and updating of supervision methods.
q.	Activities related to a common digital gate application commenced				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	It is being prepared. A common digital gate requires assessment of the compliance of web services of the majority of public sector authorities and the planning of development activities in case of non-compliance.
II. Consolidating and simplifying entrepreneurship subsidies; developing and implementing new financing models										
a.	Development of a comprehensive entrepreneur's development programme and creating a supportive implementation model	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Entrepreneurship development programme is continued.
b.	To implement a system of regular assessments of the impacts of entrepreneurship subsidies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The impact of entrepreneur's supports is regularly assessed. Interim assessment in 2018.
c.	Continuation of the KredEx measures aimed at the development of entrepreneurship (start-up loans, loan guarantees, subordinated bank loans, technology loans)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The measures are continued. If necessary, measure conditions are updated.
d.	To continue the Enterprise Estonia measures for novice entrepreneurs (basic training, mentoring, etc.)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Services intended for start-ups, e.g. basic training, county development centres counselling, mentoring clubs, will continue. Furthermore, the setting-up aid is granted under a new concept.

e.	Implementation of support measures designed to develop the knowledge and skills of entrepreneurs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In 2015, a new “Business awareness programme” was launched. Enterprise Estonia own activities related to export, events designed to improve business awareness and support services of enterprise in county development centres are financed within the programme. Training modules for the development of e-business and e-commerce are organised. Projects of e-industry, product development, and export of representative organisations of enterprises are supported.
III. Providing support measures to entrepreneurs to facilitate the growth of export capacity and use of export potential										
a.	To continue the provision of medium and long term export guarantees to an extended target group with a view to increasing the export capacity of Estonian companies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The activity is continued.
b.	To launch actions under the entrepreneur’s development programme, aimed at export activities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Entrepreneur’s development programme became fully functional in January 2016.
c.	To continue promoting development and marketing cooperation among companies, in particular in growth areas and directed to more remote markets	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	2 A new technology competence centres measure was introduced at the end of 2014, the cluster measure in 2015.
d.	Launch of foreign fair support					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	New measure will be launched in 2018, the implementer is Enterprise Estonia.
e.	Promotion of service export					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	We are mapping the requirements and procedural actions that are applied in Nordic and other neighbouring countries to Estonian construction service providers. In the construction services sector, cross-border activity is especially modest across EU and this is a sector that enables analysing both temporary cross-border services provision as well as exercising secondary establishment. Based on the mapping results, it is possible to make specific proposals for facilitating export of Estonian construction services and reducing of administrative load and cost of cross-border expansion of enterprises. We validate the results of mapping with the entrepreneurs active on the relevant markets. Mapping is also a necessary input for our EU related work. The services sector is regularly involved and notified. Competitiveness of the Estonian services sector is supported by a seamlessly functioning trade of services and investments in the services sector, which makes it important for Estonia to have an image of an attractive services trade partner and investment target country which we can contribute to with OECD and different international indicators and indexes related work (OECD STRI index, etc.).

f.	Providing export information services and training, including on more remote target markets, to entrepreneurs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	This will be implemented within the framework of Enterprise Estonia own export related activities. Trainings and joint stands at fairs are organised, Enterprise Estonia export advisors work in foreign markets, including distant markets (e.g. China, Japan, India, Singapore). The activities will begin at the end of 2018.
g.	Launch of activities for 2018–2021 of the action plan for promoting export in food sector					x	x	x	Ministry of Rural Affairs	
7. To create an environment for bringing more foreign direct investments to Estonia aimed at sectors with a										
I. Making Estonia an attractive investment environment										
a.	To support large-scale investments which are made in Estonia in order to improve local economy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The operational model of regional investment services in cooperation with county development centres has been launched (in total, four in Estonia). The large investor measure was also launched.
b.	To continue the activities of the Foundation Ida-Viru County Industrial Areas Development (IVIA)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	
c.	Programme for businesses to join infrastructure networks				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The programme has begun; the implementer is Enterprise Estonia.
d.	To ensure more efficient protection of investors	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Law on associations related investor protection problems are discussed within the framework of the law on association review, which has been launched and the final results of which will be known in 2020. By summer 2018, the law on associations review concept will be presented.
e.	Increasing the number of high added value and productivity of foreign investments with large investor support				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Large investor support; the implementer is Enterprise Estonia.
f.	Increasing awareness of Estonia as a state, in order to attract foreign investments, to facilitate entry into foreign markets for Estonian businesses, and to support tourism	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Enterprise Estonia is improving awareness about Estonia as a foreign investment destination (Invest in Estonia), as a tourist destination (Visit Estonia), as a trading partner (Trade with Estonia) and as a target country where to work (Work in Estonia). Estonia's brand used for these purposes was developed. More ambassadors and diplomats of economic affairs are involved.
g.	Implementation of important state investments, including the construction of the Tallinn City Hall into an international tourism and conference centre in cooperation with the city of Tallinn				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	A new added activity from the Government of the Republic action programme. In 2018, preparatory activities for the renovation of Linnahall will continue.

h.	Estonia's business diplomacy strategy implemented with the aim of increasing the volume of new foreign investments and export of Estonian enterprises with targeted and coordinated support by the state (business diplomacy)					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
II. Improving the availability of qualified labour necessary for the development of foreign investments and export									
a.	Developing support services facilitating the adaptation of new immigrants, including an adaptation programme and an information portal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Interior

The strategy was approved; the implementer is Enterprise Estonia.

In 2017, the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with contractual partners continued with the offering and provision of trainings in the framework of the new immigrants settlement programme launched in 2015 with the aim of supporting the migration process of new immigrants that come to live in Estonia, their quick and smooth adaptation, and acquisition of initial knowledge and skills necessary to cope independently. From 2015 to the end of 2017, altogether 18,952 new immigrants were directed by the Police and Border Guard Board to participate in the settlement programme and 2,919 training times were offered.

In 2017, the information platform www.settleinestonia.ee was designed for new immigrants and organisations involved with new immigrants. The platform enables registering to the settlement programme training sessions, receiving information on the settlement programme as well as on other services and activities that support adjustment. The new immigrants support network concept was implemented, based on which the organisations involved with new immigrants are informed and empowered in supporting the adjustment of new immigrants at the local level.

An overview of services designed for new immigrants that support settlement requiring most development in 2017 was prepared and the Police and Border Guide Board counselling service and the development of the Police and Border Guard Board web site were supported; participation in volunteer work was supported; improving family physician service and the basic training of start-up development and launch of Tartu International House service were supported. In 2018, an analysis of the transfer of the adaptation programme information platform to an outside service provider will be conducted after the EU financial period 2014–2020. Estonian Research Council has granted aid within the framework of Mobilitas Plus to 41 post-doctoral fellows, 29 returning researchers, and 13 top researchers. Three post-doctoral fellows' and returning researchers' application

b.	Ensuring the availability of labour market information in foreign languages in Estonia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Continued activity: the web sites of the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund and EURES Estonia make available labour market information and information about working in Estonia in English, also in the Russian language on the web site of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.
c.	Development of the estonia.eu portal to introduce Estonia as an attractive country		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Developing of the portal is initiated and is a continued activity.
d.	To implement a plan of action for the Estonian talent policy, with the goal of simplifying the discovery, recruitment, immigration, employment and acclimation of foreign talents		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	The action plan of foreign specialists was updated in the first and the second half of 2017 and the focus of the action plan remained the same in terms of target groups, i.e. including foreign specialists with IT competences from selected target markets and in accordance with the labour need prognosis and OSKA analysis. Planned activities: a) information about coming to work in Estonia, development and maintenance of a common e-environment of materials and public services; b) increasing readiness of entrepreneurs to involve foreign specialists; c) IT labour force campaigns in target countries, incl. to industrial sector; d) development of settlement services for foreign specialists and their families. Estonian Research Council has granted support to 41 post-doctoral researchers, 29 returning researchers, and 13 top scientists within the framework of Mobilitas Plus. Three further application rounds for three post-doctoral researchers and returning researchers will be organised. All top scientists supports have been allocated.
e.	Development of an electronic data exchange related to social insurance between the EU member states, so that people would be assured of rapid solutions for cross-border cases related to social insurance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	Estonia officially joined EESSI platform in 2017; however, it was not possible to interface to the platform in 2017. It is planned to produce the first use cases by the end of Q III 2018 at the latest. Use cases will be gradually added to data exchange in 2018 and 2019. Interfacing must be completed by July 2019.
f.	Further 4th stage amendments to the Aliens Act for facilitating immigration of foreign labour needed for the development of Estonia's economy and to increase foreign investments				x	x			Ministry of the Interior	In 2017, suggestions were collected from ministries and cooperation partners for amendment and modification of the Aliens Act and possible solutions were mapped. A legislative intent for amendments was prepared in 2018 and forwarded for approval in March. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the Government of the Republic no later than in September 2018 and implementing legislation will be passed by the end of 2018.

g.	Amendments to the Aliens Act (a. extending the possible maximum length of short-term working up to a year; b. excluding top specialists from the quota)					x			Ministry of the Interior
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In June 2017, a broad-based working party was established led by the Ministry of the Interior and assigned the task of analysing various opportunities for regulating immigration of aliens based on the needs and possibilities of the Estonian state and society. In 2018, the Government of the Republic approved two proposals made by the immigration working party: 1) not to include top specialists in the immigration quota and 2) to extend the length of short-term employment to alleviate temporary labour force deficiency. The Government made also a proposal to introduce an A2 level Estonian language skill requirement for aliens who have already lived in Estonia under a temporary residence permit and wish to apply for a new residence permit or extend the existing residence permit. A draft Act and explanatory memorandum to draft Act regarding amendments are in the first approval round. The amendments will be presented to the Riigikogu no later than by June 2018.

8. Creating preconditions for increasing the volume of research and development in the private sector as well as to increase the amount and quality of innovation output

I. Stimulating demand-based research and development and innovation

a.	Compilation of a development programme for the ICT sector, with one of the focuses being on a digital transition in industry				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
b.	To create and develop sectoral R&D capacity in areas of government of ministries	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Every ministry
c.	In regard to all of the projects of research and development institutions, to establish the growth of the percentage of the developments of an applied nature to be a priority condition for the use of financing instruments and SF resources		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research

2 The programme has been approved. Measures, incl. industry digitalisation measure will be implemented in 2018.

2 The objective of the activity “Strengthening of sectorial research and development” financed from the structural funds is to improve the R&D capability of state authorities, including the creation of sectorial R&D systems and trainings, the development of central policy monitoring and analytical capabilities, ensuring development of information systems. Most important activities involve supporting applied research that is strategically important for the state and improving the ministries’ competence of research through employment of scientific advisers in the sectorial ministries.

2 Carrying out of applied research is supported from two launched activities supported by structural funds: “Strengthening of sectorial research and development” and “Supporting applied research in smart specialisation growth areas”. The activities became fully functional in 2016. Implementation of both measures helps increase the share of applied research. The base funding regulation has been amended so that income arising from business contracts is included as one component in the base financing of research institutions. Hence, the logic is that the more research institutions have earned income from cooperation with enterprises the more they are granted research base funding from the state budget.

d.	Increasing the involvement of companies in universities' applied research		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2	This has been supported from the activity "Supporting applied research in smart specialisation growth areas". The activity is also supported by the development of the ADAPTER platform financed by ASTRA. The base funding formula has been changed so that business contracts are applied a coefficient of 2, i.e. the more research institutions have earned income from cooperation with enterprises, the more they will be granted research base funding from state budget.
e.	Developing the capacity of professional associations as commissioners of innovation		x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	2	Informative events in professional associations are organised within the activity "Strengthening sectorial research and development" to inform about opportunities of aiding applied research. Project competitions are organised.
f.	Nutika spetsialiseerumise kasvuvaldkondade programmide väljatöötamine ja käivitamine	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	2	The measures are launched: technology development centres, cluster programme, start-up Estonia, supporting applied research in smart specialisation growth areas.
g.	Development and implementation of programmes of smart specialisation in growth areas		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	2	Management and coordination of the smart specialisation process is performed at the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications joint steering group level, the daily process is the responsibility of the working party.
h.	To set the target of increasing the share of public procurement supporting innovation to 3% of all public procurements by 2020		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	2	Enterprise Estonia implements the measure supporting procurements that promote innovation. From 1 September 2017, it is possible to indicate at each procurement in the public procurement register whether it is environmentally sustainable, procurement including innovation or promoting social values.
i.	Product development support "My First Product"					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications		1 million euros has been allocated from state budget annually from 2018. The support scheme is being developed.
j.	Regular collection of additional information from business associations about the needs of sectoral R&D and proposals about how to use it in the financing of sectoral R&D.					x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Activity was initiated by business associations.
k.	Initiation of regulatory changes in order to enable the Government to negotiate with the universities the research topics of strategic importance					x			Ministry of Education and Research		Activity was initiated by business associations.
II. Improving the effectiveness of subsidies granted by the state and developing new financing solutions											
a.	Implementation of the spending review in the area of business and innovation				x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance		Spending review will be presented to the Government of the Republic.
III. Developing environments facilitating research and development and innovation											

a.	SF programme "Institutional development programme for R&D institutions and schools of higher education"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2	The measure activities are divided into two parts: investments into buildings and substantial activities for the development of quality of teaching and research. The Government of the Republic approved the investments on 9 June 2016. Construction or renovation of seven buildings for research and teaching with altogether 54.1 million euros is supported. Construction of most objects has been commenced. 67.4 million euros is for substantial activities. Substantial activities are deemed to be the structural reorganisation of universities, activities intended to increase the quality of teaching and research, improvement of the quality of doctoral studies, activities intended to increase international competitiveness and strengthening cooperation between research and development institutions, higher education institutions and enterprises.
b.	The TeaMe+ science communication programme		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		Continued activity. Estonian Research Council implements the activities.
c.	To develop a measure aimed at enterprises to encourage the use of R&D infrastructure, with the aim to increase the interest and possibilities of entrepreneurs in using the R&D infrastructure in the product development process	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research	2	The Estonian Research Council launched the so-called core infrastructures measure within the institutional research aid scheme. A core infrastructure is infrastructure necessary for conducting research on research topics of the relevant research and development institution that has been created for the public interests and that other persons can use under the terms and conditions set down by the research institution. A core infrastructure is different from other infrastructure of a research and development institution, as it is created due to public interest and is open to other users.
d.	SF programme "Support to centres of excellence for research to increase international competitiveness and top quality of research"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2	Decisions were adopted and excellence centres work has commenced. In total, nine projects are financed from the measure.
e.	SF programme "Support to research infrastructure of national importance"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research		The first application round has been organised; the second will be conducted in 2018. As the result of the first round, the Government of the Republic approved with its decision supporting 13 projects in the sum of c. 19 million euros. The final beneficiary is Archimedes. There are no significant results yet, as the projects were just launched. Active procurement activities are in progress within all projects.

f.	Facilitating the internationalisation of Estonian research and higher education	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	The activities support inter-sectorial cooperation, research by post-doctoral researchers, recruitment of foreign researchers and lecturers, returning of Estonians that have studied or worked in foreign countries. These activities are supported through the following (sub)measures: “Institutional development programme for R&D institutions and higher education institutions” and “Internationalisation of research and higher education and support for mobility and the next generation” (“Dora Pluss” and “Mobilitas Pluss”). To promote internationalisation, the activity of Estonian Liaison Office for EU RTD in Brussels and marketing of higher education and research under the auspices of “Study in Estonia” and “Research in Estonia” will be continued.
g.	To establish a support scheme for involving the development workers in companies that make a significant contribution to employment but currently have low added value		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The development voucher measure is still open.
h.	To continue product development grants and the 'innovation voucher' grant measure	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The innovation voucher measure is still open.
i.	Joining the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)					x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Estonia will join the CERN; preparatory activities for joining will be carried out in 2018.
j.	Assessment of the Research and Development and Innovation system					x	x		Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Government Office	An assessment will be commissioned from the European Commission in 2018. The respective proposal will be sent out in Q1 2018 and the result is expected in 2019.
k.	A new measure is prepared for the development of innovation and market potential of breaking scientific results (Proof of Concept)						x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2 Measure design will be created in 2018.
IV. Improving the availability of early-stage venture capital in order to support the development of innovative enterprises with high growth potential										
a.	Offering venture capital to emerging innovative companies (establishing the early stage fund of funds)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Funds of funds (Balti Innovatsioonifond (Baltic Innovation Fund) and EstFund) have been established and are operational.
b.	To develop measures in cooperation with the Baltic Sea countries, which would help integrate the Estonian venture capital with the regional venture capital market in a mutually beneficial manner, thereby improving the international investment capabilities of Estonian investors and the access of young innovative Estonian enterprises to international venture capital	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The Baltic Innovation Fund (Balti Innovatsioonifond) has been founded, launched successfully, and is operational.

c.	To establish a legal framework for the operation of crowdfunding platforms				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	EU Commission publicised their proposal for the regulation of crowdfunding in March 2018. The Ministry of Finance is currently preparing their views, which will be submitted to the Government of the Republic for approval no later than in May 2018. During the processing of the Commission's proposal, the need for preparing national regulation is assessed (e.g. if the Commission's proposal is not acceptable to most of the Member States and the Member States do not approve it).
d.	Implementation of the innovation loan measure	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The feasibility of the innovation loan will be cleared in 2018.
e.	To develop a network of 'business angels' and to offer start-up funding through business incubators and business acceleration programmes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The activity continues.
f.	Implementation of the Start-up Estonia 2.0 programme		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The pilot project is completed; the main programme has been launched.
V. Developing challenge-based research and development and innovation										
a.	To develop challenge-based R&D&I coordination mechanisms with a focus on the socio-economic challenges of Estonia (e.g., energy independence, an ageing population, internal and external security) SF programme "Supporting sectoral research programmes of ministries"	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Rural Affairs	2 The measure has been developed. The activity "Strengthening sectorial research and development" financed from structural funds has been approved. One of the activities is supporting applied research with a socio-economic objective. The applied research plan will be prepared on the initiative and under the management of the ministries responsible for the respective field. The Estonian Research Council implements the programme.
b.	Proactively analysing the legal framework and promotion of the state information system, in order to support the initial testing and introduction of smart technologies (e.g., The Internet of Things, Linked Data)		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	This work is continuous. For example, currently, the proposals concerning implementation of the ride sharing concept in the Public Transport Act are being discussed. The organisation body that coordinates cooperation between the state information technology centres and information technology companies is setting a legal framework (e.g. standard contracts) and mapping necessary changes.
c.	To increase the involvement of companies in the selection of research topics for PhD theses, the preparation and defence process and the opportunity for businesspeople to be members of the defence committees		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2 Within the activity "Scholarships in smart specialisation growth areas" (the implementer is SA Archimedes), allocation of scholarships at the third level of higher education or business doctoral studies is supported. It is planned to support at least 80 business doctoral students and 80 smart specialisation doctoral students that write their doctoral thesis. Reception commenced in 2016. In 2017, the scholarships in smart specialisation area were granted altogether to 16 business doctoral students.

d.	To continue the development of infrastructure of research and higher education and opening the use of infrastructure for entrepreneurs, implementing measures for sustainability and modernisation of R&D infrastructure (regional competence centres will be supported from the measure "Developing regional competence centres" of both 2007–2013 and 2014–2020)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	Continued activity. Maintenance and development of R&D infrastructure is based on Estonia's R&D infrastructure route map from 2010, which is a long-term (perspective of 10–20 years) planning tool, which includes a list of nationally important items of research infrastructure that are new or require updating. A new Estonia's research infrastructure route map was approved on 3 September 2014 with an order of the Government of the Republic; it will be updated in 2018. The conditions of the 2014–2020 measure "Development of regional competence centres" were approved by the regulation of the Minister of Public Administration of 20 January 2016. The objective of the support is the growth of economic activity, including employment rate and business activity, outside Harju County and Tartu County.
VI. Integration into the European Research Area										
a.	To participate in the joint EU R&D initiatives and in the joint infrastructures. To contribute to the creation of European Research Area through corresponding national policies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Continuous activity. The Government of the Republic approved with its order No. 61 "Strategic participation of Estonia in EU research and development and innovation partnerships" of 5 February 2015, the aim of which is to set down the principles of the state participation in various EU RDI related partnerships, describe the decision process of making choices and the distribution of roles of different parties. This has set up a national procedure for setting thematic priorities of European Research Area and the H2020 programme regarding cooperation partnerships to facilitate participation of Estonian scientists in international programmes, projects and in the work of research centres. The "National action plan for implementation of the European research area" has been prepared and was approved as part of the RDI strategy implementation plan (order no. 183 of the Government of the Republic of 26 May 2016).

b.	To increase the motivation of universities and businesses to diversity financing sources, by making use of the research and development needs of companies located outside of Estonia, but also the EU's various R&D&I financing programmes (e.g., Horizon 2020, ERA-net, JTI, KIC etc.). To participate actively in international innovation partnerships		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	<p>Related activities that are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •support to apply for an ERC grant – for researchers working in Estonia whose research and development project has reached the second assessment round of ERC grant application but has still remained without a financing decision. This enables continuing with the project, which was left without funding, until preparing and submitting a new ERC grant application. •Horisont 2020 ERA chairs support – enables Estonian research and development institutions to cover the research work cost of Horisont 2020 ERA chairs. •Horisont 2020 ERA NET support – enables Estonian research and development institutions cover the participation costs of Horisont 2020 ERA NET projects. •Horisont 2020 EIT support – covers the travel and personnel costs of Estonian research and development institutions when participating in the work of knowledge and innovation communities (KIC). •Estonian Liaison Office in Brussels introduces Estonian research and development activity and offers an opportunity to participate in the European Union initiatives.
c.	To increase the awareness of businesspeople and make better use of the existing and developing opportunities for entering institutional markets (e.g., through NATO, EDA, ESA, EUMETSAT, CERN, ESS, etc.)		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Continued activities.
d.	To support the use of the opportunities provided to businesses by the SME enterprise programme (COSME)		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	No additional activities will be planned.
e.	SF programme "The internationalisation of research and higher education; support of mobility and future generations"		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	Implementation of the activity "Internationalisation of research and support for mobility and the next generation" of "Mobilitas Pluss" is currently in process (the implementer is SA Eesti Teadusagentuur (Estonian Research Council). From the beginning of the programme, 41 post-doctoral researchers' projects and 13 top researchers projects have been supported and support has been granted for returning to Estonia of 29 researchers. In addition, five projects have been supported so that to enable researchers who have not received an ERC grant to prepare new ERC grant applications, four ERA chairs projects, two EIT project partners, and two ERA NET projects have been supported. Within the framework of the programme, 15 people have gained experience in Estonian Liaison Office in Brussels, 19 research marketing events were organised, 48 Estonian researchers have participated in training on how to write an ERC grant or made a study visit to ERC grant holders.

f.	The development of a balanced R&D funding system, which combines institutional funding based on effectiveness and project funding based on competition, is required in order to increase the effectiveness of the R&D system and the capacity of universities and research institutions		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research, Government Office
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The Ministry of Education and Research has submitted an additional application within the State Budget Strategy 2019–2022 to achieve this objective. The ratio of base funding and research supports of research institutions is 40%/60% in 2018. Future developments depend on budget negotiations. A task force established at the Research and Development Council is involved in the preparation of the long-term

9. Broader use of the potential of creative industries, ICT and other key technologies in order to increase the added value of other sectors

I. Developing measures to support creative industries more effectively

a.	Development of incubation for the creative industry.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
b.	Development of support structures for the creative industry.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
c.	Development of the export capacity of companies acting in different sectors of the creative industry.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
d.	Linking the creative industry to other sectors (small and large projects).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
e.	Increasing awareness of the creative industry.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The “Conditions and procedure for the support structures, joint projects and export capability of creative industry development support” have been approved. More detailed information about the current status of the implementation of the measure can be found in the monitoring report of 2017.

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Implementation mechanisms have been worked out. “The conditions for granting support to improve awareness about creative industry, develop knowledge and skills and implementation of major projects across creative industry and other sectors” have been approved. More detailed information about the current status of the implementation of the measure is available in the monitoring report of 2017.

Implementation mechanisms have been worked out. “The conditions for granting support to improve awareness about creative industry, develop knowledge and skills and implementation of major projects across creative industry and other sectors” have been approved. More detailed information about the current status of the implementation of the measure is available in the monitoring report of 2017.

f.	Developing the infrastructure and technical capacity of the creative industry.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The implementation mechanisms have been worked out. The “Conditions and procedure for the support structures, joint projects and export capability of creative industry development support” have been approved. More detailed information about the current status of the implementation of the measure can be found in the monitoring report of 2017.
II. Facilitating an integrated approach in order to increase the impact of interaction between creative industries, ICT and other key technologies										
a.	To create possibilities for developing space technologies (Earth-based applications), improving public sector services through the introduction of Earth-based applications of space technology.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Accession contract has been made with ESA. The distant monitoring distribution centre analysis is completed; the next step is to apply for funding from the investments plan or the Ministry of Education and Research measures. The process is ongoing.
b.	SF programme "Supporting applied research in growth areas of smart specialisation".		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs	It is being implemented.
c.	SF programme "Improving the R&D capacity of state agencies".		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	It is being implemented.
d.	Developing a strategy for reuse of Open Data and promote the re-use and access of public sector data, incl. creating an appropriate infrastructure.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	“Green Paper on machine-readable Estonian Public Information disclosure” and its operational action plan have been prepared and were approved at the Government cabinet session in autumn 2014. The development of the portal opendata.riik.ee and the opening of specific databases will be continued. A procurement procedure for administration and development of opendata portal was organised and a cooperation partner was found – Open Knowledge Estonia. The activities are supported by SF funds.
e.	Further development of the IT Academy programme.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	2 The activity is continued in accordance with the programme.
f.	Compilation of a development programme for the ICT sector, with one of the focuses being on a digital transition in industry				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	A new added activity from the Government of the Republic action programme. Proposals for future activities have been worked out. The term of the programme is January 2018.
III. Increasing human capital capacity in order to achieve cross-sectoral objectives										
a.	To improve the quality of management training for entrepreneurs via central provision of international training competence.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The “programme of awareness on entrepreneurship” was founded. Specific activities, incl. management training, are determined in the annual work schedule of Enterprise Estonia.
b.	Implementation of the development programme for entrepreneurs.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The development programme for entrepreneurs entered into force in January 2016. Its implementation is continued.

c.	To continue supporting the support structures and export potential of creative economy and improving the awareness by support schemes for enterprises of creative economy.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
10. To develop human capital in the area of research and to ensure the increment of engineers and key specialists									
a.	Increasing the income of doctoral students and improving the efficiency of doctoral studies.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research
b.	To develop a research instruction system and implement measures for improving the quality and effectiveness of instruction, with the aim to increase the number of good and effective supervisors.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research
c.	To continue supporting schools with doctoral programmes and develop further research centres of excellence.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research

Implementation is continued.

From 1 September 2015, the social guarantees related to parental benefit and pension insurance of doctoral students receiving doctoral allowance were expanded. The state pays social tax on the doctoral allowance through the Ministry of Education and Research. Former legislation guaranteed doctoral students only health insurance. In addition, the doctoral allowance, which was 422 euro, was raised to 600 euros from 1 January 2018. Doctoral studies are supported by Kristjan Jaagu grant programme, “Dora Pluss” financed from ERDF and “Institutional development programme for R&D institutions and higher education institutions” that finances doctoral education institutions.

“Institutional development programme for R&D institutions and higher education institutions” financed from ERDF, which funds doctoral studies institutions, contributes to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of doctoral studies mentoring. Within the ASTRA measure, in total, 13 doctoral education institutions are supported. The principle condition of doctoral education institutions is an obligation to carry out activities in cooperation with different institutions through doctoral education institutions.

From 2016, doctoral education institutions are supported through the “Institutional development programme for R&D institutions and higher education institutions”. In order to improve the central management of doctoral education institutions, the doctoral education institutions council was established at the Universities of Estonia in spring 2014 on the initiative of the doctoral education institutions. Eighteen applications were submitted by deadline to the support measure for centres of excellence (period 2014–2020), of which nine are financed. The measure is implemented smoothly. The implementer of the measure is SA Archimedes.

d.	To develop a researchers' career model with integrated solutions for social guarantees to the extent that it starts with entry into the research world and ends with exiting from it, from a post-doctorate that supports career mobility to working in an R&D company without jeopardising the continuation of one's career.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research
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The following activities have been launched to support the building of the career model:

- from 1 September 2015, the social guarantees of doctoral students were expanded;
- through the programme "Mobilitas Pluss", opportunities are created for post-doctoral research and researchers that have passed abroad a post-doctoral programme or have been involved in comparative level research that return to Estonia are supported;
- allocation of scholarships for the third academic level or so-called business doctoral studies within the activity "Scholarships for smart specialisation growth areas in higher education" is supported;
- researches career survey has been conducted within the programme RITA, the results of which are used to create career models for academic professionals and to prepare amendments of legislation and the new Research and Development and Innovation Strategy.
- during the updating of higher education legislation the relationships with the Research and Development Organisation Act are considered to provide input for building the academic professional career model.

11. Bringing transportation, ICT and other public infrastructure and institutions that support business to an international level

I. Improving air traffic connections

a.	To support the security and rescue services at Tallinn Airport and regional airports.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
b.	To develop air traffic connections with all major European business centres.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
c.	To lengthen the Tallinn Airport runway and ensure ILS II-category.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

The activity is continued.

The activity is continued.

Cohesion Fund grant agreement was signed. Construction works in the air traffic area will be carried out in two stages in 2016–2017 and 2019–2020.

II. Better interoperability of the road and railway networks and the public transport system

a.	To develop the Ülemiste passenger terminal and develop more connections with the airport.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
b.	To improve the speed and safety on main roads; to continue the reconstruction of the Tallinn-Tartu road into a four-lane road and the reconstruction of the Tallinn-Narva and Tallinn-Pärnu roads.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Will be performed when the Rail Baltic terminal is constructed. A design solution is prepared. Connection to the airport, including airport tramway construction is completed.

This will be carried out in accordance with the road management plan.

c.	To carry out an inventory of local roads in order to determine their conditions and traffic loads and to establish a national database of the network of national and local roads and streets under the National Register of Roads.	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The activity continues. The Estonian Road Administration has taken the lead role and continues to invest into local roads.
d.	To tighten the Tallinn-Tartu train schedule and reduce the duration of the journey by introducing new trains.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The passenger train schedule between Tallinn and Tartu has been made more frequent; however, in order to increase speed, the railroad section Tapa-Tartu will be repaired in 2015–2017. After the repairs are completed, it is possible to review whether it is possible to add additional departures. Construction works are underway. The frequency of Tallinn-Tartu passenger train schedule has been increased continuously and it is planned to add one additional rotations in 2019. In order to increase speed, the railroad section Tapa-Tartu was repaired in 2015–2017. To add additional speed up to 135 km/h in certain sections, it is planned to invest altogether 15 million euros into the Tallinn-Tartu railroad section in 2018–2020.
e.	Specifying the location of the Rail Baltic railway route corridor on the territory of the Republic of Estonia; initiation of planning.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Affairs	Rapla and Harju county plans have been submitted for supervision; however, official supervision procedures cannot be carried out before the SEA has been approved. The activity continues. The county plans were adopted in the middle of February 2018. It is possible to submit challenges to the plans until the middle of April.
f.	Development of a single electronic ticket system for all the types of public transport.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	From the second half of 2015, an integrated ticketing system is in use in Tartu and Tallinn, which means that public transport cards can be cross-used. From summer 2017, Pärnu was integrated into the ticketing system. The integrated ticketing system will not initially be introduced in Elron trains; however, it is considered as a further step. Preparations for the option to pay with a contactless bank card for a ride in public transport have been made. From 1 July 2018, the so-called free public transport scheme will be implemented in counties where passengers are not charged for the ride. The existing ticketing systems should enable cross-use so that the person can use public transport in several counties.
g.	To introduce flexible public transport solutions, such as on request buses, social transport or taxis, in sparsely populated areas.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	On-demand buses are used in five counties. In Lääne County, an on-demand line group will be introduced in 2019, which will be serviced only in case there are passengers. All public transport centres have been given the task to review the line network during 2018 and, if possible, use more on-demand lines.

h.	To improve access to public transport information; to introduce information systems that meet the needs of hearing-impaired and visually impaired people.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	This is implemented gradually. Presently, of 31 supported projects, 24 have been finished. During 2018, all projects will be completed, except for Tartu, Narva, Tapa, and Klooga. Tartu, Narva, and Tapa projects are large-scale projects that require more time to be completed. Klooga project is on hold, as Eesti Raudtee has a plan to reconstruct there a level crossing, which means that it has to be finished first (it is expected that the EVR project will be finished in 2020).
i.	To prepare guidelines and best practices on spatial planning and organisation of mobility for the use by state and local authorities and the private sector.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	The Planning Act specifies that the minister responsible for the field may make regulations to establish requirements concerning the implementation of the principles of planning; the specifications of the manner in which the functions of spatial plans are to be fulfilled; the formalisation of spatial plans; the structure of spatial plans and the documents related to public disclosure and their preservation (subsection 3 (6)). The instructional materials of general planning and impact assessment and a draft regulation are being prepared.
j.	In order to increase the competitiveness of Estonian highway transport and freight carriage, investments in main highways and bridges that would allow the weight restrictions for trucks to be lifted, incl. during a three-year test period starting with 2015, the impact of the easing of gross weight restrictions on the condition of the roads and road maintenance costs will be monitored.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Implementation of the road management plan 2014–2020. In accordance with the action programme of the Government of the Republic, the road management plan 2014–2020 will be amended along with the State Budget Strategy 2019–2023.
k.	A development plan for the regional railway network will be developed.			x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	A new activity based on the Government's action programme. The deadline was postponed to QII 2018.
l.	Establishment of an expert group on spatial use for bringing together national expertise on spatial use.				x	x			Government Office	The decision to establish a spatial design expert group was made on 3 July 2017. The deadline for completing of the tasks of the expert group is July 2018.
III. Developing the port infrastructure										
a.	The development of the Muuga commercial port as a container transport hub, which would service west-east and north-south trade flows.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The next steps in connection with Muuga multimodal terminal: (a) legal analysis (spring 2020), (b) analysis of potential financing models (summer 2018), (c) making agreements with Tallinna Sadam, EVR and, if necessary, operators (autumn 2018), (d) preparing and designing the detailed plan (2019–2020), (e) construction.

IV. Increasing the potential of information and communication technology networks									
a.	Introducing a new generation broadband connections everywhere by establishing a basic network in rural areas in Estonia and supporting access to the network (supported under the 2007–2013 measure "Improving access to the Internet in regions that use the new generation electronic communication network").	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Affairs	Establishment of the Internet-connection base network was supported; the network enables communication companies to establish later access networks for end-users. As at May 2015, with the help of SF, 2,715 km base network were established in 2007–2013. This activity is continued in 2014–2020 supported by SF in accordance with the investment plan. In addition, proposals are being put together to guarantee the so-called last mile connections. The activity has continued in the period of 2014–2020 funded by SF. As at 2017, 5,300 km were completed. To support the last mile construction, 10 million euros in 2018 and 10 million euros in 2019 have been allocated in the state budget. The measure regulation is being prepared.
b.	Preparing and implementing an action plan for the programme "10 million e-Estonians".		x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The action plan was approved in July 2015 and it is being implemented. The e-residency programme was updated and the action plan was approved as part of the ICT development programme in autumn 2017 for the period of 2018–2020, incl. the extension of programme activities.
c.	Developing, among other infrastructure investments (e.g., introducing sensor-based collection and forwarding of road information), the infrastructure for collecting real-time transport information.	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The activities of the implementation plan for 2014–2017 of the National Transport Development Plan 2014-2020 are being implemented.
d.	Supporting the development of trip planning and other transport information services, including mobile services, between modes of transport and/or services that are integrated with additional services.	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The activities of the implementation plan for 2014–2017 of the National Transport Development Plan 2014-2020 are being implemented.
e.	Developing the legislation facilitating safe introduction of autonomous vehicles and the relevant standards of interoperability, safety and monitoring.	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	An amendment to the Traffic Act that entered into force on 14 July 2017 allows in traffic partially or fully automated or remotely controlled vehicles or self-driving delivery robots.
f.	Developing the Single Window applications further.	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In maritime sector, the maritime information system (EMDE) is constantly improved and the information system is amended to ensure compliance with the changing requirements. The funds necessary for the development of the system are planned in the budget of the Maritime Administration.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND ENERGY

12. Implementing long-term structural changes in the energy sector in accordance with Estonia's energy security and energy efficiency objectives

a.	Continuing to increase the diversity of the portfolio of energy sources in order to maintain energy independence, including increasing the share of renewable energy sources and reducing the share of carbon-intensive energy sources. Amending the Development Plan of the Estonian Energy Sector in line with the developments of recent years.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Continuous activity.
b.	Preparing and implementing energy infrastructure projects to improve the internal energy market (LNG Terminal, BalticConnector, third interconnection with Latvia).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Preparatory activities continue. The launch of 2020 Balticconnector and third Estonia-Latvia connection. The LNG terminal is a private project and the state does not plan to support it.
c.	Establishing common EU energy market rules, including measures implemented at the border of EU for avoiding carbon leakage.	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Discussions are being held in the energy working party of senior officials of the Baltic Council of Ministers. (A draft act is being prepared in the Lithuanian Parliament to regulate trading with third countries). The optimal measure, which will impose a transfer charge to electric energy from third countries, has been identified. Discussions of 3B are being held about its implementation schedule.
d.	Developing the electricity support scheme for electricity produced from renewable resources and via co-generation of heat and electricity.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Continued activity. At the end of 2017, state aid permission to change the scheme was received. In 2018, Economic Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu will initiate a draft act to amend the Electricity Market Act to be in line with the approved state aid permission.
e.	Creating opportunities for Estonian renewable energy producers and developers for the implementation of the flexible cooperation mechanism specified in the renewable energy directive.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Amendments of the Electricity Market Act are discussed in the Riigikogu. The first contract of statistics trade with Luxembourg was entered into. In 2018, the proposal of the expert group to the Economic Development Committee of the Government of the Republic was approved, which mandated the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications to create an additional position, the task of which would be to promote flexible cooperation mechanisms with the aim of making agreements of additional renewable energy sale with other Member States.

f.	Establishing a balanced electricity system and paying renewable energy supports to micro-producers.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Micro producers are paid support in accordance with the valid Electricity Market Act. An amending draft act regarding amendment of the Electricity Market Act submitted to the Riigikogu includes a proposal to extend payment of support to micro producers (< 15 kW equipment) until 2020. The rest of the producers that have not made irreversible expenses will be subject to a new aid scheme from 1 January 2018 based on which support is paid based on the results of competitive tendering. According to the issued state aid permission, it is planned to change the procedure of payment of the renewable energy support and make projects that begin from 1 January 2019 subject to competitive tendering. Amendments to the Electricity Market Act are necessary (see row 252).
g.	Development of a smart grid	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	From 1 January 2017 all Estonian electricity consumers are equipped with remote reading equipment that enables all consumers to benefit from dynamic electric energy price packages. The data exchange platform that exchanges communication between market participants regarding consumption data has been operating for several years.
h.	Preparation for the synchronisation of the power grid with the frequency bands used in the EU.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Continued activity. A protocol of intent between interested countries is being prepared. An isolated operation test is planned to be performed in 2019. It is planned to achieve capability for permanent island operation in emergency in 2025. Synchronisation is planned in 2030. After the results of the ongoing studies are disclosed, a political decision will be made about the preferred technical solution of synchronisation by summer 2018. This will be followed by submission of projects to CEF application rounds in 2018–2020. The indicative final date of the project is 2025.
i.	Preparation and implementation of the development plan of the energy sector up until 2030				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The National Development Plan for the Energy Sector was adopted in October 2017; the implementation plan is being prepared.
j.	Drawing up and implementation of national programme for reducing certain atmospheric pollutants, 2020-2030					x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	With the Directive 2016/2284/EU national commitments for reducing atmospheric pollutants by 2020 and 2030 have been set for the following substances: sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5}), ammonia (NH ₃) and non-methane volatile organic compounds (VOC). In order to ensure the reduction commitment of atmospheric pollutants, national programme has to be established. The programme has to be presented to the European Commission by 1st of April 2019.

k.	Preparation of the climate and energy plan					x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment	This obligation arises from the new management system regulation of the EU Energy Union. It is hoped that the regulation can be adopted this year. The proposed regulation sets out the obligation for Member States to produce a national integrated energy and climate plan by 31 December 2018 and the final integrated energy and climate plan by 31 December 2019. In order to prepare the integrated energy and climate plan, a working party across ministries that will organise preparing of the plan has been established.
13. Reducing the general resource and energy intensity of the economy										
a.	Improving the energy efficiency of public sector buildings. To build new public sector buildings to be as energy efficient as possible.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	Continuous activity. A regulation was adopted to bring the existing public sector buildings into compliance with the energy efficiency minimum requirements. In 2017, a support measure for local authorities' rental residential buildings was launched, which aims at the erection of new class A buildings and the reconstruction of existing apartment buildings to be energy efficient.
b.	Supporting the investments into energy efficiency of apartment buildings.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Environment	Implementation is continued. 2014–2020 SF measure amounts to 102 million euros. As at 23 September 2017, the measure budget was covered with applications and accepting new applications was suspended. To continue with this support measure, additional financing for the period of 2019–2022 in the total sum of 100,000,000 euros is proposed during the State Budget Strategy negotiations.
c.	Developing environmentally friendly public transport by using the investment programme for gas and electric means of transport	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs	The amount of the 2014–2020 SF measure for the promotion of gas transport is 9 million euros. As at the end of 2017, there were 6.3 million euros left in the measure; however, the interest in the support has significantly grown in Q1 2018.
d.	Planning that reduces forced movement, development of public transport and light traffic, enforcement of activities of the SF measure "Sustainable development of urban areas" and the SF measure "Sustainable development of the cities of Ida-Viru County".	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment	In 2015, local authorities of urban areas prepared action plans forming the basis for applying for support. Based on the approved action plans, applications for support were received and reviewed in 2016. 37 financing decisions for urban areas light traffic projects have been adopted from both SF measures ("Sustainable development of urban areas" and "Sustainable development of the cities of Ida-Viru County"), that amounts over 21 mln Euros.

e.	Developing and implementing a system for auditing distance heating areas and an investment support scheme to increase the efficiency of district heating networks or to introduce alternative local heating solutions.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The third application round of the measure “Renovation of district heating boilers and switching of fuel” is opened and the results will be clear by the end of spring. The public is very interested in this measure. The measure “Construction of local heating systems to replace district heating systems” is open and consultations are being held with three local authorities. The budget of the measure “Preparing development plans for heating” has almost been used up and there are funds for a few applications in 2018.
f.	Creating the conditions for the establishment of energy cooperatives and energy service companies.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Conditions are created in the Energy Sector Organisation Act.
g.	Promoting the use of renewable energy in small residential buildings and support the renovation of heating systems.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	As at the end of 2016, 522 decisions to grant support in total 1,542,431 euros had been adopted, payments had been made in total 1,473,595 euros. Most popular heating equipment is air/water heat pump (207 applications), ground-source heat pump (126 applications) and pellet-burning appliances (81 applications). This support scheme ends in 2018. As at the end of 2017, payments have been made in total 1,602,674 euros. Most popular heating appliances are air/water heat pumps, ground-source heat pump and pellet-burning appliances.
h.	Reconstruction of street lighting systems.	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The second round of the SF measure “Renovation of street lighting infrastructure” will be opened in spring 2018 and the results will be known by the end of the summer. In the first round, support in the amount of 10 million euros with an average support percentage of 61.5% was distributed. 24 applicants received support.
i.	Developing collaborative renewable energy projects with other countries (within the framework of the renewable energy directive).			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In 2017, an agreement was made between the Republic of Estonia and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on trade of statistics within the cooperation mechanisms where Estonia is the selling party and Luxembourg is the buying party. Similar projects will be continued.
j.	Support/programme for the development of energy technologies.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	This is related to the National Development Plan for Energy Sector. At the beginning of 2018, Estonia joined the bioenergy technology programme at the International Energy Agency (IEA) and examines opportunities to participate in other IEA technology collaboration programmes. A national energy technology programme has not been developed due to the lack of resources. Energy sector activities are financed from programmes of general objectives (e.g. RITA programme). An important financier of the activity is the EU Horizon 2020 programme, which has granted funding to 35 Estonian project partners and the allocated aid is in total 11.9 million euros (source: “Estonian Potential in Framework programmes: Analysis and Policy Options”, Estonian Research Council 2018).

k.	Development of a new concept of environmental charges, taking into account the results of the analyses of the external cost of the use of the environment and of optimal remuneration of the oil shale sector.			x	x	x	x		Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The analysis of external impacts of exploitation of the environment and costs for society is being implemented and it will be completed by autumn 2019. The analysis of optimal charge for oil shale was completed at the end of 2016. Proposals based on the study were presented at the Government of the Republic cabinet meeting. An analysis of environmental charges system and renewal of economic measures influencing exploitation of environment and proposals will be prepared in 2019.
l.	Developing and implementing the companies' energy and resource efficiency measure (including BAT, resource audits, resource management systems).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	Activity is continued. This is financed from the 2014–2020 SF funds. The first series of information dissemination events where the general principles as well as specific subjects (e.g. waste, energy) were discussed within the activity “Improving awareness about energy and resource management” of the resource efficiency measure were conducted in 2016 and such events were also organised in 2017; visual materials and messages have been created. Individual consultations at companies were commenced. A resource audit manual and training plan were prepared within the activity “Conducting training sessions on energy and resource management” and the first training cycle was carried out in spring 2017. At the end of the training sessions, 24 persons received resource use specialist certificate. The second training cycle began in November 2017. The application rounds for the measure activities “Conducting energy and resource audits” and “Investments into the best possible resource efficient equipment” are open (respectively 1,000,000 euros and 35 million euros). The applications are being assessed and the first 26 audits have been carried out and six investment applications have been satisfied. A small application round and the regulation are being prepared. The investment application round will be opened to the entire processing industry (spring 2018). Additional resources were acquired from the Environmental programme of the Environmental Investment Centre for raising awareness about eco-innovation, which is one of the environmental priorities of Estonia’s presidency (tightly connected to resource efficiency). A portal will be created, content marketing in Facebook and media portals will be commissioned, video clips will be made, and virtual courses will be organised. In October 2017, hackathon “Circular Economy 2017” was organised; the event introduced circular economy principles, including eco-innovation and resource efficiency.

m.	Preventing and reducing waste generation and increasing recycling and reuse of waste.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	This is financed from the 2014–2020 SF funds. In the first application round of the resource efficiency measure activities, “Supporting preparations for waste reuse” and “Supporting recovery of waste”, two projects were granted financing, one of which was declined. A new round will be opened soon, where the focus is also on promoting separate collection of waste. Avoidance of waste generation and reuse is also supported from the Environmental programme of the Environmental Investment Centre.
n.	Implementation of measures to increase the use of vehicles that use alternative fuels (including biogas) (support measure to develop the biomethane production and filling stations infrastructure).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The measure “The conditions and procedure for use of support intended to aid the development of biomethane market” is being implemented and as the result of the implementation of the measure, biomethane will be made available for end-users for the same price as natural gas. As the result of the measure, two or more biomethane production plants will be launched.
o.	Mapping of the socioeconomic value of ecosystem services and develop and implement a relevant assessment model.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	The measure activity “Necessary tools for assessment, prognosis and accessibility of data of environmental status associated with biodiversity from socio-economic and climate change aspect” is being implemented. An action plan to map and assess ecosystem services as well as an analysis of what has been done in other countries and application aspects (University of Tartu) has been prepared. The action plan provides a list of suggestions that should be taken into account in ecosystem services assessment and mapping. Ecosystem services assessment and mapping at the state level is being carried out and a standard method for that purpose is being prepared.
p.	Preservation and restoration of ecosystems.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	The measure “Preservation and recovery of protected species and habitats” is being implemented. The activities of all measures have begun and they are being implemented. Six open application rounds were announced; six Minister of the Environment orders regarding the conditions of granting support for the activities of implementing authorities have been approved.

q.	Developing the accounting and mining permits system for natural mineral resources in order to increase sufficient availability, economical use and security of supply of raw materials.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of the Environment	Supply certainty of construction minerals is assessed by the Environmental Board case-by-case basis, taking into account national interests when extraction permit is granted. Based on that, if necessary, the granting of a permit is refused if too many quarries are operational in the specific area or the Government of the Republic is requested a consent in case of refusal by the local authority to receive permit if supply certainty is not guaranteed. Supply certainty data are publicly available via the web, which can be used also for the assessment of a development project perspective. In addition, peat areas damaged by extraction and abandoned peat areas and peat areas suitable for extraction were made available in the map application of the Land Board. The application helps to find easily peat areas for which a permit can be applied for. The application also shows abandoned peat areas damaged by extraction, which the state is currently organising. In 2017–2018, it is planned to develop keeping study points of geological studies and laboratory samples data in the information system of the list of mineral deposits and adjust software to be in compliance with the changed legislation and administrative division. The new Earth's Crust Act entered into force on 1 January 2017 and set down a limit (1 year) to the processing of permits and included other amendments that contribute to achieving the objective.
r.	Developing and implementing a framework for emissions trading by sectors that do not belong to the emissions trading system (buildings, transport, agriculture, waste, etc.).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	A study on the cost-effectiveness of the measures intended to reduce greenhouse gas emission from sectors not included in the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system has being carried out. The results of the study will be presented in Q2 2018 and will be used as an input in compiling relevant development plans.
s.	Developing and implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emission from sectors not included in the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system.				x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Affairs	MoE makes choices on the bases of a study on the cost-effectiveness of the measures intended to reduce greenhouse gas emission from sectors not included in the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system and if needed, carries out additional studies to implement in cooperation with other ministries measures for reducing greenhouse gases most efficiently.
t.	Continuing the demolition of buildings that are no longer used and spoil the landscape.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	Within the environmental programme, demolishing of agricultural, industrial or military buildings that according to the local authority spoil the landscape and are not in use and the handling of waste due to demolishing, including facilitating recovery and reuse and cleaning of the area.

u.	Implementing rotation ages in forest regeneration cutting, which take into account tree maturity to ensure the continuous flow of timber from forests and to increase volume increments.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	This requires additional discussion in society. The amendment of the Forest Act reduced the rotation age only for the reason of health status in spruce stands of Ia and I quality class. The average prescribed cut in period 2011–2016 was 10.1 million m ³ annually, the total increment in all forests was 15.9 million m ³ in 2016 and the total increment of the managed forests was 14.1 million m ³ .
v.	The development and implementation of the fundamental principles of the Earth's crust policy in order to use earth and the mineral resources in a manner that creates high value for the society of Estonia, taking into account socio-economic, security, geological and environmental aspects. Establishing a state geology service.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	The Parliament (Riigikogu) adopted the "Principles of earth's crust policy until 2050" with its resolution on 6 June 2017. The state has to take into account the principles of the earth's crust long-term policy directions when designing earth's crust policy and when preparing and updating relevant national strategic development documents. The Geological Survey of Estonia was established.
w.	The promotion of the utilisation of timber to a greater extent.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	In 2017, the "Study of taxation system and information need influencing forest and woodworking sector" was completed and "The analysis of possibilities for building public sector buildings as wooden buildings" is ongoing. The Ministry of the Environment plans to build a nearly zero-energy mostly wooden building as a pilot project of a public sector wooden house. For that purpose, the concept of an environmental house made of wood has been prepared.
z.	Following better the principles of resource efficiency when carrying out public procurements.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance	Work is being done so that it would be possible to adopt compulsory criteria concerning four preferred fields (furniture, cleaning products and services, drawing and office paper, office IT equipment) by a regulation of the Government of the Republic. In 2016, a round table was organised in the four prioritised categories (with the producers and their associations). The criteria have been analysed and it was identified which criteria can be and which cannot be adjusted to Estonia's conditions. The procurement lawyers of the public sector have been constantly trained. In 2018, separate regulations to regulate the four categories will be prepared; these will become mandatory for the public sector after the adoption. In 2018, a procurement will be organised (Environmental Investment Centre project financing) to commission a study/analysis of environmentally sustainable public procurements, instructions; and five new categories will be prioritised and the criteria for the five categories will be worked out (the producers of the relevant sectors and public sector procurement lawyers will be involved).

y.	Development and implementation of the fundamental principles of the climate policy for 2050.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	The Parliament (Riigikogu) approved the climate policy principles document on 5 April 2017. To achieve the objectives set down in the development document, the Ministry of the Environment contributes to working out of the development plans of the specific areas and prepares relevant analyses, if necessary.
z.	An analysis and proposals regarding charges, the distribution system, and pricing resources of the resources belonging to the state (except for oil shale)						x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance	Based on the proposal of social partners.
aa.	A draft act including the principles of an unlimited time system for setting oil shale differentiating prices						x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance	Based on the proposal of social partners.
ab.	Collection of sufficient amount of study data on mineral resources found in Estonia						x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment	Based on the proposal of social partners.
ac.	Preparation of the circular economy strategy						x	x	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of the Environment	Based on the proposal of social partners.
ad.	Developing the use of oil shale in a way that ensures the highest possible efficiency factor and smaller footprint (incl. resource fees, R&D activities).			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of the Environment	The best available techniques (BAT) for using oil shale have been described and based on the descriptions, BAT conclusions have been prepared (independent or co-burning of residual gases of oil shale pyrolysis, production of chemicals from oil shale pyrolysis waste, increasing the use of solid waste of oil shale processing). Introduction of the BAT conclusions package enables reducing pollutant emission into air, compensating deeper cleaning of smoke energy consumption by improving energy efficiency of energy consumption, and improving resource exploitation by recovery of oil shale ash in larger amounts. Based on the results of the analysis of optimal charge for oil shale, the Government of the Republic will make proposals to impose a charge on oil shale resource use in 2019 to achieve more efficient use of oil shale resource. As a result, the added value of oil shale will increase and the competitiveness of oil shale products will improve. In addition, the environmental status in the oil shale region will improve.

SUSTAINABLE AND ADAPTIVE STATE

14. Reaching a government sector budget surplus by 2014 and maintaining that position in the long-term

a.	Additional measures by the Tax and Customs Board to improve tax receipts (construction, catering, hospitality, fuels, public procurement).	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Fight against undeclared wages – regular observations related to employment registration: regional and risk based. Public procurements – preparing a standard contract for contracting authorities and ensuring that they use it. Sector-based approach, main focus on construction and catering – cooperation and information exchange with professional associations. Application of supervisory systems of fuel and storages.
b.	To hold Government's budget at least in cumulative balance or movent towards.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	The budget for 2016 had a structural surplus. According to the prognosis, a structural surplus, although smaller, will be achieved in 2017. The goal is set on a 0.5% structural deficit in the two next years and a structural deficit of 0.3% in 2020 to compensate the structural surplus in the three previous years.
15. To improve the sustainability of social expenditure in the public sector in the context of decreasing working-age population and ageing population, ensuring effective health care and well-oriented and effective social policy (including the necessary support services)										
a.	Preparation of a legislative intent for draft legislation concerning the compensation system of occupational accidents					x			Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance	Based on the decision made at the Government of the Republic meeting on 5 April 2018, a legislative intent must be prepared by the end of June 2018 and the financial impacts of insurance against accidents at work must be analysed so that business expenses of employers as a whole will not increase.
b.	De-institutionalisation of special care services and the introduction of special care services that are based on the needs of service users as well as the reorganisation of the special care infrastructure with the aim of supporting the development of a more person-focused and community-engaging service system.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	1,111 24-hour special care service places will be reorganised and 201 new community service places will be added within the framework of the welfare infrastructure development measure by 2019. The second application round was opened in November 2017 and decisions about approving applications will be made in the first half of 2018 for the reorganisation of c. 154 service places and the establishment of c. 200 new service places. For adults with special mental needs, an individual specific service model developed as a result of the design project of special care services will be piloted.
c.	Comprehensive development of accessibility (including the mapping of the state of play and improvement of cooperation with local governments) and increase of awareness about universal design (including by organising a universal design competition).			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Social Affairs	The accessibility council formed in 2015 continues to work. In 2017, two council meetings were held and in 2018, it is intended to continue the work of the council and hold at least two council meetings.
16. To continue the budgetary policy supporting competitiveness (high level of productive expenses, increased flexibility, controlling public sector wage costs, planning the local government revenue base in state budget strategy)										

a.	To increase gradually the state funding of private sector R&D expenses to 1% of GDP in order to create growth conditions for private sector R&D investments.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Education and Research	To achieve this objective, the Ministry of Education and Research has submitted an additional request to the State Budget Strategy 2019–2022. The result depends on the budget negotiations. A task force formed at the Research and Development Council deals with the financing plan of long-term research.
b.	The continuation of the reform designed to centralise financial accounting, personnel management and wage calculation.	x	x	x	x	x			Ministry of Finance	The objective is to join all ministries and areas of government to the support services centre. The final report of the support services (TUTSE) project was submitted to the Government in the first half of 2017. All areas of government have joined the National Support Services Centre's accounting services, except for the Ministry of Defence, which will stay separate (their own central accounting unit has been formed at Defence Forces). Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Government Office, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs have joined the procurement services of the National Support Services Centre. Foundations and one legal person governed by public law have joined the accounting services of the National Support Services Centre.
c.	Amendments to the State Budget Act aimed to wider implementation of multi-annual view, including keeping budget in structural balance on a multi-annual average basis				x	x			Ministry of Finance	A draft Act is being prepared.
17. Continuing gradual reduction of taxes on labour and profits and increase of taxes on consumption and										
a.	To increase further the excise duty on alcohol.		x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Gradual increasing of excise duty until year 2020.
b.	To increase further the excise duty on tobacco.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Gradual increasing of excise duty until year 2020.
c.	Application and implementation of time-based road use fee.			x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Finance	Imposition of time-based road use charge has been decided and a draft act, coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, has been prepared. Adoption of road use charges is expected in 2018.
18. Adaptation of the Government sector to changes in internal and external changes										
a.	To increase the financial autonomy of local authorities, the allocations intended for a specific purpose are added to the revenue base of local authorities				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance in cooperation with Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Ministry of the Environment	Continued activity in accordance with the Government of the Republic cabinet meeting decision of 21 September 2017.
b.	Development and implementation of activity plans for state reform.				x	x	x		Ministry of Finance	An action plan for state reform has been approved by the Government. The action plan includes activities until the first quarter of 2019. Several activities are being implemented. The action plan will be updated at the beginning of 2018.

c.	Revision of the tasks of state institutions and organisations established by the state, and increasing the efficiency of the management of institutions.			x	x	x	x		Ministry of Finance	The Ministry of Finance in cooperation with ministries of specific fields conducts analyses on various topics that potentially allow the reduction of doubling, saving or offering better services, incl. for example in agriculture, transport board, assembling support functions into a joint ministry building, in ICT services, resource use at courts, work organisation in state laboratories, in offering career services, reorganisation of museums, schools and hospitals networks.
d.	Activity plan and timeline for taking jobs out of the capital and implementing the activity plan.			x	x	x	x		Ministry of Finance	The analysis of tasks and location of governmental authorities and development of principles was submitted to the Government on 23 March 2017. An additional discussion about the authorities and counties was held in the Government on 5 December 2017. The deadline for implementation of the plan is March 2019. As at February 2018, 421 positions had been relocated from Tallinn and created in regions (the positions of the Defence Forces, which are not public, will be added).
e.	Activity plan and timeline for establishing state houses and implementing the activity plan.			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	The action plan was discussed in the Government on 28 February 2017. At the beginning of 2018, the Ministry of Finance will present the Government a specific plan for creating state houses in every county. State houses in Rapla and Viljandi are being created.
f.	Enforcement of the action plan for making machine readable e-bills compulsory when dealing with the government.			x	x	x			Ministry of Finance	The action plan, the aim of which is to make compulsory machine-readable e-invoices when settling with the state is being implemented. The Riigikogu passed an act that amended the Accounting Act at the end of 2016, which stipulates that it is compulsory to submit e-invoices to public sector authorities when selling goods or retaining services from 1 January 2017. The Ministry of Finance is involved in creating the capability of the public sector authorities to accept e-invoices. However, many public sector authorities cannot accept e-invoices. All public sector authorities must accept e-invoices in accordance with the Accounting Act from March 2017. In 2018, the focus is on improving the authorities' capabilities, communication with partners and use of e-invoices when transacting with public sector authorities is planned to make compulsory.
g.	Changes in legislation based on the white paper on the ownership policy of state enterprises.			x	x	x			Ministry of Finance	To implement the White Paper on Participation Policy, the State Assets Act must be changed. The Government approved the amending draft State Assets Act on 4 January 2018. The Riigikogu has opened proceedings on the bill on amendment of the State Assets Act; the first reading of the bill is finished.
h.	Regular personnel- and salary analyses as input to the government budget strategy and yearly budgeting.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Ongoing activity.
i.	Implementation of the plan to reduce the volume of lawmaking.		x	x	x	x			Ministry of Justice	Ongoing activity. The Minister of Justice presents an overview on the implementation of the plan once a year in September. The next overview will be presented in September 2018.

j.	Concept of the Government of the Republic Act and concept of the Organisation of the Public Administration Act.		x	x	x	x	x		Ministry of Justice	This was discussed at the cabinet meeting on 2 March 2017 and again at the meeting held on 5 April 2017. The term of the draft Government of the Republic Act and the explanatory memorandum is 1 March 2018 and the term of the draft Administrative Organisation Act and explanatory memorandum is 1 April 2018. The draft Acts will be sent for approval in spring 2018.
k.	Implementation of the zero bureaucracy programme.			x	x	x			Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications	A task force was established to coordinate implementation of proposals on reduction of bureaucracy in spring 2016. The results of the work of the task force performed in 2016 will be introduced to the Government in Q2 2018 by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure. In accordance with request of five ministers, the Government decided to extend the task force until the end of 2018.
l.	Project 3.0 (a joint project of Tax and Customs Board, Statistics Estonia, and the Bank of Estonia – possibilities are created for the automatic movement of data necessary for the state based on minimalism and simplicity)			x	x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Based on the proposal made by social partners.
m.	Project Tax and Customs Board 2020 (technological and functional updating of eTax, creating open and integrated solutions)				x	x	x	x	Ministry of Finance	Based on the proposal made by social partners.
n.	Implementation of the Open Government Partnership action plan 2016-2018.			x	x	x	x	x	Government Office	Two-year action plans are prepared to participate in an international initiative. The term of the report on the action plan for 2016–2018 is November 2018. The term of the action plan for 2018–2020 is 31 August 2018.
o.	Public sector and social innovation task force proposals and their implementation.			x	x	x	x	x	Government Office	The task force for public sector and social innovation presented their proposals to the Government in autumn 2017. Currently, the proposals are being implemented.
p.	Establishment of an innovation unit in the common building of the ministries					x	x	x	Government Office	According to one proposal of the task force for public sector and social innovation, an innovation unit will be established in the common building of the ministries. The duty of the unit is to manage the process of resolving problems involving several authorities, coordinate the network of innovation enthusiasts, and organise service design training courses (c. 600 people have undergone the training in three years).
q.	Service design training					x	x		Government Office, Ministry of Finance	In order to increase the knowledge about service design in public sector, a training programme in cooperation with Velvet and Praxis has been launched. In two years, c. 100 people will undergo the training.

r.	Tax system competitiveness analysis (preferably on the basis of previously prepared studies) and industrial policy sectoral bottlenecks analysis in cooperation with Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, taking into account environmental and electricity fees and taxes						x		
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Based on the proposal made by social partners.