

MEMO: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE NEW COALITION AGREEMENT

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THE SHORT TAKE:

The prime minister, Jüri Ratas (CENTER / ALDE) resigned in the early hours of January 13, 2021, in the wake of corruption scandal that engulfed his party's secretary general Mihhail Korb and the advisor to the minister of finance (Martin Helme, EKRE / ECR) as well as people from the private sector. The scandal's focus is on a large property development in the capital, which has received state aid during COVID-19 and suspected bribery as well as peddling of political influence. The resignation was not inevitable – the coalition between the CENTER (ALDE), ISAMAA (EPP) and EKRE (ECR) had weather many storms – and should be seen as a result of several factors, the least of which is the wariness from living in perpetual scandals and the political opportunity to move fast into creating a new government with the leader of the opposition, to get away from the scandals. Previous coalition partners ISAMAA

and EKRE will move into the opposition, as the President used her constitutional prerogative to propose the right to form a government to Kaja Kallas, leader of the REFORM party (ALDE), who within hours had agreed with the leadership of the CENTER party to start negotiating for a two-party coalition, which will give them 59 seats in the unicameral 101-seat Riigikogu.

The coalition talks lasted for only about 8 days, moving swiftly over most policy areas as the aim was to wrap things up fast – in order to focus on COVID management and leave other ideological aspirations aside. Needless to say, the epidemic has left a large whole in the government coffers and there is no money to finance the more extravagant political ideas

Thus the government is as much about what it is not, as it is about what it is. The most

visible different is that the right-populist EKRE with divisive political rhetoric and inflaming sentiments, has been pushed back into the opposition, after nearly 2 years in the government, where they were not able to institute any non-mainstream policies, despite trying, but where they did try everyone's patience as well as more practically, did enough to blemish Estonia's international reputation – there is widespread agreement on this among the political and media class. Whether a return to the cordon sanitaire will remain permanent, will depend on EKRE most of all.

The new coalition treaty is liberal in many ways, as is becoming for the two ALDE members, who differ in details a lot, even if it does not contain many detailed new policies. The most evident changes are the clear focus on green energy,

climate policies (including a strong pledge to end power generation from oil shale, support to open sea wind etc), digital reforms, a tax peace (no new taxes or hikes in existing ones, which was also the policy of the previous government) and many other things. It is clear to all involved that the political realities will not be tested in the coalition treaty but in the budget strategy, which needs to be formed for the next 4 years in the coming Spring.

Also, this is a short term government, whose first year already will be affected by local (October) and presidential elections (August). Those milestones will show, if the new partners, which governed together from 2005–2007 the last time around, will find ways to co-operate on other levels too (pooling their votes to find a mutual candidate for president).



PRIME MINISTER – KAJA KALLAS

She is the leader of the Reform Party since 2018 and a former Member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2018. Before entering politics, she served as an attorney, specialising in European and Estonian competition law, and has been a Member of the Riigikogu from 2011 to 2014.



MINISTER OF FINANCE – KEIT PENTUS-ROSIMANNUS

In the current Riigikogu, she is vice-chairman of the Reform party parliamentary faction. She has served as a Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Environment before and was present for coalition talks.



MINISTER OF DEFENCE – KALLE LAANET

He is currently chairman of the Riigikogu National Defence Committee, has expert knowledge of the field, and has overseen internal security in the past.



MINISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS – URMAS KRUISE

He has been served as the minister of Rural Affairs in the past and is the Reform Party’s foremost spokesperson in this field. He has also been the mayor of Tartu and Elva.



MINISTER OF SOCIAL PROTECTION– SIGNE RIISALO

She has served as a member of parliament and is a long-time expert in the social sector, as well as very active in the municipal politics of the capital Tallinn.



MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH – LIINA KERSNA

She has a master’s cum laude in education organization and is a prominent specialist in her field, rising to the cabinet from her seat in the parliament She was the Director of Government Communications prior to working as the head of the office of the Prime Minister.



MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ENTERPRISE – ANDRES SUTT

He has extensive international experience in banking and has worked as the Director of Regulatory Relations of the Eesti Energia Group and a member of the Management Board of the Group, as well as in ESM, EFSF, IMF and the Bank of Estonia. He rose into the cabinet from his seat in the parliament.



MINISTER OF JUSTICE – MARIS LAURI

She is a former Minister of Finance and Minister of Education and Research. In her earlier career she was a macro analyst for the leading bank in the Baltic region and she has also worked as an adviser to the Prime Minister. She rose into the cabinet from her seat in the parliament.



MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LABOUR – TANEL KIIK

He continues to do the work he started as the Minister of Social Affairs in the previous government, since 2019 and will hold on to the responsibility in managing the health crisis that broke out last year. In the previous four years, he managed the Prime Minister’s Office at the State Chancellery.



MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INFRASTRUCTURE – TAAVI AAS

He will continue in the same position as in the previous government. Before joining the government, he was the mayor of Tallinn for five years.



MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR – KRISTIAN JAANI

Kristian Jaani has worked in law enforcement for more than 25 years; since 2013, he has been responsible for internal security as the prefect of the Northern Prefecture of the Police and Border Guard Board. He has no prior political experience and is not a member of any party, yet.



MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT – TÕNIS MÖLDER

In the current Riigikogu, he has chaired the work of the Social Affairs Committee, handling very sensitive political reforms among other things. For the past nine years, he has also worked as the Tallinn district elder, in the City Council’s city economy committee, and as deputy mayor.



MINISTER OF CULTURE – ANNELI OTT

Before taking up the portfolio of Minister of Public Administration in the previous government, she chaired the European Union Affairs Committee’s work at the Riigikogu.



MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – **JAAK AAB**

He continues to work in an area where he worked in both the previous governments. Previous posts include being the Minister of Social Affairs (2005–2007).



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – **EVA-MARIA LIIMETS**

Until the formation of this government, she was the Republic of Estonia’s Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Croatia, and Slovenia. She has previously held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1997. As a career diplomat, she is politically unaffiliated.

ANNEX 1. Full text of the Agreement on the Formation of the Government of the Estonian Reform Party and the Estonian Center Party and the Cooperation Agreement between the Government Union for 2021 – 2023

The Estonian Reform Party and the Estonian Center Party will form a government that will continue to effectively resolve the COVID-19 crisis, keep Estonia forward-looking and develop our country in all its areas and regions

Both parties understand that Estonia’s political and social climate is tense and will do their utmost to create more comprehensive political trust and a willingness to cooperate among all people to move Estonia forward. The coronavirus pandemic will also require us to take decisive action in the near future to prevent the spread of the virus, to vaccinate, strengthen the health care system, organize education, ensure people’s incomes, and support entrepreneurship.

The following principles guide the coalition partners in the government union:

We stand for a forward-looking political culture that respects all groups in society and respectful governance based on our Constitution’s spirit.

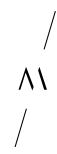
Estonia is a good small country that supports all people and their desire to fulfill themselves and contribute to Estonia’s development.

We proceed from the Estonian state and people’s common best interest and the principles of justice and law. Estonia is a state governed by the rule of law, where all social decision-making processes are as transparent as possible.

We consider it important to reduce social, economic, and regional inequalities and promote everyone’s health and well-being.

We stand for the rights of all people in Estonia, including minorities, and respect privacy.

Estonia’s foreign and security policy’s focus is the membership of the European Union, NATO, and the United Nations and the active representation



of Estonia's interests in international organizations and bilateral relations.

We will continue to play an active role in meeting the European Union's climate goals and work to use various EU funds to carry out the green and digital revolution as soon as possible, which will not leave any people or regions of Estonia behind.

We attach importance to an open, fact-based information space and discussion environment accessible to all groups in society on an equal footing. Independent media play a central role in informing the Estonian people comprehensively.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC **RESPONSE**

The coronavirus pandemic will require us to continue to take decisive action in the near future to prevent the spread of the virus, to vaccinate, to strengthen the health care system, organize education, ensure people's incomes, and support entrepreneurship.

We work scientifically and evidence-based to prevent COVID-19.

We will continue our comprehensive cooperation with the European Union and vaccine manufacturers to increase vaccine quantities arriving in Estonia.

From May, we will provide free and close-to-home vaccination for everyone. We are running vaccination support and awareness-raising campaign.

We agree on the principles and action plan for exiting the coronavirus pandemic.

In cooperation with business organizations (incl. The tourism sector), we will supplement support measures to contribute to the economic relaunch in the conditions of COVID-19 recession.

To reduce the coronavirus pandemic's economic impact, we consider it important to ensure that crisis measures are transparent and precisely

targeted, especially to the affected regions, households, and businesses.

In the conditions of a pandemic, we pay special attention to the availability of health care services, maintaining people's physical and mental health, and providing quality education. We try to keep society as open as possible.

HEALTHY AND WELL-KEPT **PEOPLE**

HEALTHCARE

To ensure the sustainability of the health care system, we will initiate a people-centered health care reform, considering the rapid recovery of human health and the ability to work important.

We will encourage the emergence of new personal health care services based on genetic data and increase the number of gene donors.

We consider it important to ensure the offspring of health care workers and organize their competencies and the empowerment of primary health care services.

We will improve the organization, availability, and quality of mental health services. We also ensure the availability of psychiatric care for minors.

To increase the life expectancy and the number of healthy life years of Estonian people and reduce health inequalities, we are devoting more resources to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and early detection.

We will further develop the solidarity health care model and direct the necessary additional money to health care to reduce waiting lists for treatment. We will improve the use of the EHIF's resources by mapping the possibilities for reducing treatment queues and encouraging the wider use of remote consultations.

We will move forward with patient insurance, which aims to ensure high-quality healthcare and patient safety.

We are modernizing health care infrastructure throughout Estonia with the support of European Union funding. We will continue negotiations with the European Commission to obtain the necessary funding for the construction of Tallinn Hospital.

We will continue the procedure for paying sickness benefits until the end of 2021, where the employer pays the benefit from the second to the fifth day and the health insurance fund from the sixth day.

We consider it important to make the dental benefit system more flexible in order to ensure adequate support for the elderly and those in need.

We will expand the availability of primary health care services in the evenings and on weekends and look for additional solutions to improve regional access.

We are implementing the Estonian Cancer Control Plan, which is aimed at systematic prevention, early diagnosis and ensuring the availability of treatment.

We support the implementation of various E-Systems in medicine in order to make patient treatment more effective. We invest in e-health solutions, health technologies and continue to develop personal medicine.

We value the work of healthcare professionals. In order to increase the sustainability of the Estonian medical system and the number of health care workers, we allow health care institutions to enter into preliminary agreements with medical students.

SOCIAL SECURITY

We will direct the money released from the second pillar pension reform to cover the pension insurance deficit, make the average old-age pension tax-free and make an extraordinary pension increase.

We raise awareness and motivate employees and employers to participate in pension collection.

We are looking for ways to restore state payments in the second pillar earlier. We analyse the creation / offer of people with an option to increase their contributions to the second pension pillar.

We will improve cooperation in the field of social, educational and health care and the provision of integrated services. We will increase the capacity of local governments to provide needs-based assistance to people close to home and promote cooperation between local governments.

We will reorganize the long-term care system with the aim of preventing and reducing the need for long-term care, alleviating the care burden of loved ones, and supporting the provision of home services. We analyse alternative financing models (incl. Care insurance) to reduce people's deductibles and increase the availability of services.

We value social and child protection work. We are modernizing the child protection system to ensure that the need for help is noticed faster and effective help. We support a network of orphanages to help abused children quickly and create a service to help children with trauma experiences.

We will launch a reform of the support system for children with special needs, to ensure faster, more effective, and comprehensive assistance to children.

We will reform the victim support system to ensure the best solutions for violence and crime victims to escape violence and recover from trauma caused by crime.

We fight intimate partner violence by contributing to violence prevention and providing prompt and competent cross-sectoral assistance to victims. We support victims of domestic violence in starting a new independent life.

SMART ECONOMY

Research and development and innovation

Estonia is an innovative country that values the creation and use of knowledge, where social life is organized with the help of new, people-centered and efficient technologies.

We allocate at least 1% of GDP by the state to research and development. We consider it important to increase private investment in research and development.

We will create a Future Fund to accelerate the climate and digital revolution, the resources of which we will direct to research and development and the development of a knowledge-intensive economy.

We support companies that are able to contribute to the creation and introduction of research-intensive and innovative technologies and that therefore need state support in mitigating investment risks.

We will increase Estonian research institutions' motivation for applied research, which enables research transfer in the private and public sectors.

We will launch an applied research program that will support companies in launching, funding applied research and finding suitable partners.

We will develop a hydrogen fuels strategy and a hydrogen pilot project measure to test the entire hydrogen chain in Estonia, within which hydrogen must be produced, supplied, and consumed.

We will launch a support measure for start-ups and find a solution to the shortage of specialists, making Estonia an attractive country for developing and testing various innovative solutions.

Infrastructure and modern connections

We ensure the availability of high-speed internet connections all over Estonia. In order to improve teleworking opportunities and increase regional competitiveness, we will accelerate the pace of last-mile connections.

Accelerating the planning of four-lane roads and allocating additional funds for road construction with the help of European Union funds.

We will cooperate with local governments to improve the condition of the local road network and bring the roads to a black surface.

We will build lasting connections with Europe and, in the future, with Finland. We are accelerating the construction of Rail Baltic.

We will launch the Tallinn-Helsinki tunnel leadership and a positive initiative at the national level in relations with Finland.

If possible, we ensure direct connections to destinations important to the Estonian people and economy.

We will develop measures to support the relaunch of the aviation sector following the health crisis.

To increase the speed of local train traffic, we are investing in new trains to increase passenger comfort and reduce the burden on the environment. We develop convenient train connections domestically (incl. Tallinn-Rohuküla) and with foreign countries.

We consider it necessary to ensure accessibility for all groups of society when building new apartment buildings and other infrastructure.

We will electrify the railways in stages, analysing the possibilities of using hydrogen fuels, with the aim of accelerating the achievement of climate goals in the transport sector.

We will improve the connection between the mainland and the islands.

We support county public transport by giving public transport centres the freedom to decide on the quality and organization of regular transport.

We will develop sustainable transport, including tram connections and digital solutions in public transport, and build light traffic and modern street space in cooperation with local governments.

We will bring ships under the Estonian flag and

prepare a package of comprehensive political measures to ensure this.

We will continue to support the improvement of small ports.

The attractive business environment and entrepreneurship

It is important to us that Estonia has an internationally attractive and competitive business environment. To speed up business, we will reduce bureaucracy and simplify legislation.

- We support the continuation and supplementation of the e-residency 2.0 action plan to develop a more convenient and secure e-residency.
- In order to develop the business environment, we work carefully with entrepreneurs and business organizations.
- In order to attract investments to Estonia and revive the economy, we will strengthen the capacity of the Foreign Service and expand cooperation opportunities with various funding agencies.
- We conduct state-owned business and asset audits on the basis that where the market operates, the state does not have to be a market participant. We do not divest companies in sectors where there is no competition, security, or the provision of vital services.
- We will create a strategy to support the introduction and stay of the headquarters and development centers of fast-growing and capital-raising companies in Estonia.
- We will accelerate public investment to revitalize the economy and meet climate goals, taking into account regional differences.
- We will develop a national program to ensure regional investments and balanced development throughout Estonia.
- We review the real estate policy of the state as the owner.

- A sound financial system requires the development of regulations against money laundering, investment fraud, etc. The Estonian financial system is open; fraudsters and criminals have no place here.

Workforce – high employment, flexible employment, and controlled migration

- We consider it important to expand retraining, further training, and adult education opportunities in order to restore employment as soon as possible.
- We support the greater involvement of people with reduced working capacity in the labor market.
- We consider it important to reduce the gender pay gap.
- We support people and companies with regional labor market measures in areas with higher unemployment.
- We will maintain high-level tripartite negotiations with the Estonian Trade Union Confederation and the Estonian Employers' Confederation on labor market issues.
- Estonia is open to experts and skilled workers who share Estonian values and realize themselves. We consider it important that the shortage of labor with specific qualifications does not start to damage the competitiveness of Estonian companies.
- When attracting foreign labor, we take into account the Estonian labor market situation and want to keep the employment of Estonian people as high as possible.
- We systematically review support services for the implementation of specialists coming to Estonia as soon as possible.
- We will improve e-solutions and introduce the principle that companies and foreign specialists can make the necessary applications and registrations through one central solution.



- We will continue to create new modern forms of work and relations in cooperation with the social partners.

PUBLIC FINANCES AND TAX POLICY

We are moving towards a balanced state budget, considering the situation caused by the crisis and international competition and the rules of the European Union.

- We will carry out a state budget audit and increase the transparency of the state budget.
- Due to the uncertainty and volatile situation in the global economy caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the government will not introduce new taxes and will ensure a stable tax environment.
- We consider it important to use the European Union funds (budget period 2021–2027, reconstruction fund, etc.) effectively and quickly to carry out structural reforms and compensate for crisis losses.

GREEN ESTONIA

NATURE

- We seek agreement on the forestry development plan, involving relevant stakeholders on an equal footing.
- We aim to increase the timber industry's productivity and research intensity by valuing the natural and economic function of forests.
- In cooperation with researchers, we prepare a biodiversity development plan.
- We will reduce the logging pressure on the state forest and monitor that the ecological, economic, cultural, and social goals of RMK are in a better balance.
- We will include carbon sequestration criteria and the principle of recycling in the public renovation, design, and construction procurement.

- We inventory valuable habitats in public and private forests in order to preserve valuable forest areas and natural forest fragments.

CLIMATE POLICY

- We will develop an action plan to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and set it as a national target.
- In cooperation with Ida-Virumaa local governments, business organizations and researchers, we will develop an action plan for a fair transition and creation of new jobs. In addition to the Fair Transition Fund's support, we are directing additional funds to the region.
- We will implement a motivation package so that local governments will achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- In cooperation with researchers and entrepreneurs, we will determine the directions of research and development where Estonia is a leader in the green revolution. We support solutions in the chosen direction and the export of know-how.
- Through the Future Fund, we will create opportunities for local communities, companies, and the liberal community to participate more actively in the green turn. We are developing a local benefit instrument.
- We will draw up a stronger action plan for 2030 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport and building sectors. We will continue the program supporting the energy saving of buildings and the use of renewable energy in households.
- We will develop an action plan to achieve all waste and circular management goals.

ENERGETICS

- We will accelerate the transition to renewable energy in both production and consumption. We will stop making additional investments in fossil fuels.

- We will implement the Ida-Virumaa Fair Transition Plan developed in cooperation with local representatives, which will support research-intensive industrial and production developments in the region.
- We analyse the support for the establishment of an industrial incubator and applied industrial robotics research and development center in Ida-Virumaa.
- We will carry out a green energy revolution in the Estonian public sector step by step, switching to renewable energy consumption.
- We will involve EU funds to continue the pre-development of the Estonian-Latvian joint offshore wind farm.
- We will complete the Estonian maritime area plan, which provides for sufficient areas for the construction of new offshore wind farms.
- In order to accelerate development, we support the further development of electricity generation capacities and energy storage capacities based on renewable sources and the energy network both in the Baltic Sea and on the Estonian coast.
- We encourage the formation and operation of local renewable energy cooperatives.
- We encourage the use of local biomethane, other gaseous fuels and electricity in transport.
- We will continue to synchronize the Estonian and other Baltic electricity systems with the continental European frequency band to ensure energy security and security of supply.
- We will ensure the reserve of managed production capacities necessary for energy security, together with possible additional earmarked funding, which must comply with the European Union state aid rules. We are working to build an LNG terminal in Estonia.
- We will cease the production of oil shale electricity by 2035 at the latest and the use of oil shale in energy as a whole by 2040 at the latest.

- We will continue the discussion on the possibilities of using nuclear energy in Estonia. We are looking for opportunities to increase the competence of the country's nuclear energy.

EDUCATED AND SMART PEOPLE

Education and research

- We make the education system learner-oriented and flexible. Learning opportunities must be varied and accessible, and the education system must allow smooth movement between levels and types of education.
- We will launch an action plan for education in Estonian to give everyone an equal opportunity to participate in society and working life and continue their studies at the next level of education. We allocate the necessary funding to kindergartens and schools, which enables us to organize the study process in Estonian, ensuring high-quality education. We bring additional teachers with corresponding qualifications to educational institutions.
- In addition to subject and professional skills, we pay more attention to the development of general and future competencies. It is important to personalize learning, diversify it, increase financial literacy, and support learning activities with digital solutions.
- Valuing the future of teachers and the teaching profession is a pillar of the Estonian state's sustainability. In teacher training, we proceed from the goal of having competent and motivated teachers and school leaders in Estonia.
- We support a holistic approach to support learners with special educational needs and to provide a range of support services. We pay

special attention to pre-primary education to ensure that special needs are identified and supported as early as possible. We will create a talent- and learning-friendly environment in schools.

- We support bringing people's knowledge and skills in line with the needs of the labour market and structural changes in the economy, and we modernize vocational education opportunities.
- We contribute to the teaching of programming and robotics in primary classes in order to increase children's interest in real subjects. We will increase the capacity of digital learning at the level of teachers and students.
- We will develop a higher education funding model that allows for the involvement of private money.
- We ensure the appreciation and survival of the Estonian language as a scientific language and ensure state support for the development of the Estonian language for research activities. The research of the Estonian language is at an internationally high level, and the language infrastructure is innovative, open, and diverse. We support the development of the Estonian language in accordance with the digital age.
- Carry out a reform of doctoral studies to ensure the growth of young researchers and create doctoral studies in business.

Population and family policy

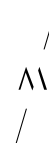
- We make communication with Estonians living abroad as smooth as possible when they return to Estonia when they return.
- We support Estonian and expatriate Estonian communities, their schools, cultural events, and communication with Estonia all over the world (Estonian language learning, Estonian research).
- We offer Estonian-language education to the

Russian-speaking population through a state program.

- To support the birth of children, we provide the necessary support to families in family planning and raising children so that all desired children can be born. We will continue to reconcile work and family life with a family-friendly employer label.
- We pay special attention to low-income families, families with children with special needs, single parents, and families with many children.
- We guarantee young families the opportunity to receive a housing loan with a minimum of self-financing to purchase their home with a state guarantee.
- We will create a functioning family reconciliation system, which will enable the conclusion of life management agreements based on the welfare of the child in the event of the parents leaving.
- We do not change the definition of marriage in the Family Law Act. We aim to protect the rights of people living in different cohabitation models, for which we are looking for a broad-based common ground in the Riigikogu.
- We promote gender equality to ensure equal treatment and equal opportunities for men and women. We ensure equal treatment and protection of discrimination across sectors.
- We will improve the accessibility of the living environment, services, and products across all areas.

Culture and sports

- In order to ensure that Estonian people have the opportunity to participate in higher culture as well as to participate in the promotion of folk culture, we consider regional balance and the promotion of our cultural diversity when planning cultural facilities.
- We take care of the continuity of the Estonian



song and dance festival movement. We involve compatriots from all over the world in the promotion of national culture, we ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage created by them in the homeland.

- We support the creation of a diverse high culture across all creative fields.
- We guarantee all ethnic groups in Estonia the opportunity to develop their national culture.
- We will analyse the possibilities of restoring the “Preservation and Development of Temples” program.
- We promote the reduction of cultural events’ environmental footprint and increase the availability of Estonian culture on digital platforms.
- We support performance institutions to enable performances in all regions of Estonia.
- We value public libraries’ role in society and consider it important to preserve libraries in rural areas and villages.
- Cultural Accelerator – we will create a funding model that would allow cultural institutions in different fields to make development leaps and attract private funding.
- We will create a “Kultuuriranits” fund, which will increase the opportunities for young people to participate in culture.
- We make the mental and physical health of the people of Estonia a national priority. We attach importance to physical education and sports in promoting healthy lifestyles and public health.
- We value the work of coaches, hobby education teachers and youth workers. We promote a wide range of physical activity through the salary support of coaches, the further development of support systems for school sports, youth hobbies and mobility events, and the development of mobility-promoting infrastructure (including multifunctional sports halls).

- We promote sports and mobility opportunities and accessibility for people with special needs.
- In order to improve the competitiveness of Estonia’s top sports and strengthen the country’s image, we support important sports events (incl. Rally Estonia) and the special program of achievement sports Team Estonia.

ACTIVE AND PROTECTED ESTONIA

Foreign policy

- The Estonian people’s security and well-being is best guaranteed in the world, which is based on democratic governance, guaranteeing human rights, internationally agreed rules, and European values.
- We will intensify cooperation with the European Union and NATO allies. We are consolidating strong transatlantic relations, focusing on developing relations with the new US administration.
- We will continue to be active in diplomacy as a member of the UN Security Council and work to become an observer member of the Arctic Council.
- We will pay special attention to supporting the Eastern Partnership countries to strengthen free and democratic societies.
- We will strengthen the Estonian Foreign Service, including the foreign mission, by expanding Estonia’s diplomatic activity.
- We will update the strategy of business diplomacy and ensure a more coordinated representation of Estonia’s economic interests abroad.
- We set the goal of development cooperation to increase stability, democracy, and prosperity in the European neighbourhood and in the world as a whole, introducing Estonia’s

success stories in the field of e-government, digital identity and education and health care.

- We involve the global Estonian community and implement a global Estonian program.

European Union

- We will continue Estonia's active work at all important levels of government in the European Union.
- Estonia actively participates in the planning of joint activities of the European Union in order to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting economic difficulties.
- Estonia actively participates in shaping the European Union's climate and digital policy and contributes to making the European Union a world leader in climate policy.
- We attach importance to the geopolitical European Union and support the strengthening of the European Union's common foreign and security policy.
- We maintain and strengthen the principles of free movement in the European Union.
- We are actively involved in shaping the close future of relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom.
- We are leaders in the European Union in the fight against misuse of information and manipulation of public information.

National defence

- Estonian national defence is based on the unwavering will of the Estonian people to defend themselves, the reserve army created with the support of military service, the Defense League, the development of an independent defence capability and strong allied relations with NATO.
- We will continue to meet national defence expenditures at the level envisaged in the current plans, which is at least 2% of GDP,

plus costs related to the reception of allies in Estonia and the defence investment program.

- We will work to strengthen NATO, which is the cornerstone of European security and military defence. We consider it necessary to further strengthen deterrence and protection measures, including through the military presence of the Allies in the Baltic States.
- We will continue to develop strategic alliances and defence cooperation with the Member States of the European Union and the United Kingdom. We will increase joint action on security policy in the Nordic and Baltic countries.
- We will take the development of a wide range of national defence to a qualitatively new level, consolidating the preparation for various crises in the State Chancellery and increasing legal clarity in resolving crises.
- We will improve Estonia's maritime defence capability and maritime border surveillance by increasing the harmonized management and information exchange of surveillance systems in the administrative areas of various ministries.
- We will acquire the necessary radar capabilities for the Defense Forces in order to enable the development of wind energy in Estonia.
- We are in favour of Estonia's continued participation in peacekeeping missions. We will continue to work actively with the Allies to combat trafficking in human beings and terrorism.
- We will ensure that Estonia is a cyber-protected country, and we will work closely with our allies to this end.
- We support product development and defence technology research projects of defence industry companies and increase the involvement of the local defence industry.



BALANCED ESTONIA

- We see rural entrepreneurship as a bioeconomy based on the diverse use and processing of natural resources, but also as a service for people and businesses.
- To support the green and digital revolution in agriculture and the knowledge-based policy-making process, we will increase the respective competence in the area of government of the Ministry of Rural Affairs.
- We support the activities of entrepreneurs aimed at both the domestic and foreign markets and develop cooperative activities. In order to increase national food security, we value local producers and domestic food products.
- We support the development of the organic farming sector and the comprehensive development of the organic economy, and we promote the export of organic products and services.
- We stand for the equalization of direct payments at the level of the European Union and pay crisis aid or, if possible, transitional support to farmers. With the help of subsidies, we increase the competitiveness of agricultural and food producers and increase environmental protection.
- We support the sustainability of domestic fisheries and the preservation of jobs in the fisheries sector. We create preconditions for the development of aquaculture on the high seas and inland waters.
- We will continue to support rural life and agriculture through various measures of the Rural Development Foundation. We ensure clear and transparent decision-making processes.
- We encourage people to return to rural areas and opportunities for young people to self-fulfill in the countryside.
- We will facilitate the transfer of

land necessary for the promotion of entrepreneurship to local governments.

- We enable the rapid introduction of euro money to promote local life.
- We prepare a development plan for a high-quality living environment based on a high-quality public space's basic principles.
- We support the development of rural areas and local business through regional loan and guarantee instruments and regional programs.
- In performing the public sector's tasks, we follow the principle of subsidiarity; the growth of the capacity of local governments creates preconditions for bringing additional public services closer to the citizen. We stand for a strong local government.

OPEN AND SECURE RULE OF LAW

Digital and e-government

- We will accelerate the further development of e-government and digital solutions. We make digital services for people and companies predictable and event based. When developing digital services, we follow the principle of the personal state, we ask people for data only in one place
- We will develop digital skills in all age groups for better digital inclusion and the ability to create information technology.
- We will launch major digital revolutions in education (personal learning pathway), health, welfare, child protection (personal medicine and integrated services) and other areas of life. We invest in learning programming and robotics in primary schools to increase children's interest in science.
- We will create e-citizen mobile applications

- (ID card, driving licenses, digital wallet, secure e-elections) that provide modern user interfaces for participation in the main state processes.
- We support national harmonization of IT developments, a holistic view of digital infrastructure and greater cooperation with the private sector. For the e-government to work, stable financing of the state's ICT expenditures must be ensured.
 - We cooperate with local governments in the development of local e-services, we offer standardized e-solutions to local governments. We pay attention to increasing the competence, digital competence, and flexibility of local governments.
 - We will stimulate the digital revolution of industry and construction through various European Union funds.
 - We support innovation with legislation. We will create a framework for the deployment of AI and self-propelled vehicles in the public sector and direct the public sector to share open data with the private sector.
 - We will make Estonia an attractive test environment for start-ups. We launch DigInEsti – an innovation platform based on health data. We are setting up a “living laboratory” for testing digital solutions for the future.
 - We support the rapid construction of the 5G network and the introduction of new technologies. The establishment of a 5G network is important to better enable teleworking in rural areas.
 - We contribute to the Estonian space program and cooperation with the European Space Agency, especially in areas important for Estonia (cybersecurity, etc.).
 - We analyze the timeliness of the legal framework for data collection and databases, including issues related to better cross-use of databases.
- Internal security
 - Estonia ensures a sense of security and safety for all its residents and people in the country.
 - We will continue to build the eastern border with technical solutions. We consider it important to strengthen the border management structure of the Police and the Border Guard Board.
 - If possible, we fully involve Estonian IT and defense industry companies in the development of internal security.
 - Strengthen strategic crisis management capabilities and training. We replenish national crisis stocks and ensure the continuity of vital services in crisis situations.
 - We increase the awareness, skills, and preparedness of the population in emergencies.
 - In order to empower the regional and local level, we will entrust the regional coordination of civil protection and national defense to the competence of the Rescue Board.
 - We will analyze the possibilities to expand the cooperation between the Police and the Border Guard Board and local governments in ensuring internal security.
 - We will continue negotiations with the European Commission to obtain the necessary funding to increase the country's helicopter capabilities (including ambulance and rescue flights).
 - We value volunteers (auxiliary police officers, rescuers, lifeguards), supporting the increase of their number, equipment, and cross-sectoral cooperation.
 - We value the work of employees in the field of internal security.
- Fight against corruption*
- We will adopt guidelines for the prevention of conflicts of interest for ministers, their advisers, and other senior civil servants. We will impose an obligation on the advisers

of the Minister to declare interests and supplement the obligation to declare interests in the public sector.

- In cooperation with corruption-free Estonia, we will amend laws to prevent corruption and increase the transparency of public administration.
- We will strengthen the Party Funding Supervision Commission by increasing its competence and capacity and expanding its competencies. We consider it important to increase the accountability and transparency of politically oriented foundations and NGOs.
- In order to increase the transparency of legislation, we will implement a digital and co-creation environment for the state.

Effective and inclusive governance

- Public administration must be open, honest, responsible and supportive of innovation. All financial decisions and support measures taken by the state must be transparent, based on equal treatment, well-targeted and targeted.
- We encourage the use of innovative, environmentally friendly, and socially valuable criteria and quality criteria in procurement.
- We will involve universities and experts in the field to strengthen policy-making and the knowledge base of the public sector.
- We will update the state reform plan and continue to implement it by reducing bureaucracy and overall administrative deadlines.
- We will continue to consolidate state agencies and streamline support services. In the public sector, we encourage flexible recruitment across Estonia and enabling teleworking.
- We seek legal clarity in legislation so that the current law and legal language are better understood by people.
- In the fight against crime, we pay special attention to intimate partner violence, child-related crime, a fair economic environment and ensuring competitiveness. We will focus on recidivism.
- We will digitize the field of justice, including making digital criminal proceedings as digital as possible.
- We will increase the involvement of these representative organizations and people's legal awareness when making decisions concerning the free sector.
- The readiness to play a civic role is supported by adequate civic education, which we develop in cooperation with universities. We support community initiatives, volunteer involvement, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.