Estonia
Estonia: Critical risks at a glance

**Natural hazards:** Due to its climate marked by severe winters, cold waves constitute a critical risk for Estonia. Other natural hazards include storms, floods and infectious diseases. Wildfires, such as the 2016 wildfires in Lääne-Viru and Ida-Viru, also constitute a critical risk for Estonia.

**Man-made risks:** Industrial accidents, organised crime and terrorist attacks were also identified as critical risks. Cyber risks, such as the 2007 attacks that affected government and economic activities, are also a critical risk.

**Most critical risk:** Not identified.


Disaster-related socio-economic losses

**Deaths** are mostly caused by transport accidents, followed by cold weather. Average deaths per million inhabitants for the period 1995-2015 were below the OECD average.

**Damage** is mostly caused by storms. Overall, damage caused by disasters as a % of GDP between 1995 and 2015 was below the OECD average.

Notes: Data are not available before 1992 for Estonia. For 83% of disaster events registered for Estonia in EM-DAT between 1995 and 2015, damage data are not recorded. Owing to differences in the measurement of damage, estimations for individual events may differ across sources. Due to methodological differences in the attribution of deaths to heatwaves, the figure comparing average deaths per million inhabitants against the OECD average excludes these deaths.


**Major disasters**

- Storm Erwin
  - July 2005 in Pärnu
  - 130 million US$ damage (est.)

- MS Estonia ferry sinking
  - September 1994 in the Baltic Sea
  - 912 deaths
The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) is the responsible lead institution for the governance of critical risks. Despite the institutional lead of the MoI, all ministries are responsible for disaster risk management under their mandate. To ensure policy coherence, the MoI coordinates cooperation across levels of government and ministries. In addition, it monitors and evaluates policy implementation and publicly disseminates the results. The MoI coordinates risk assessments under the emergencies act and regularly updates the guidelines. Within the MoI, the Estonian Rescue Board has the lead for planning preparedness measures and drafting national rescue policies. It operates a Crisis Management Centre and coordinates actions with regional rescue centres and with non-governmental actors.


Note: Data from the OECD Survey on the Governance of Critical Risks is only available for 33 OECD countries plus Colombia and Costa Rica.