Estonia is a leader in digitalising public procurement. Estonia is one of only four OECD countries with a full range of functions built in to its e-procurement systems (Figure 8.5).

Chapter 8 – Public procurement

Estonia performs exceptionally in quality of education, but problems with access and responsiveness remain. Estonia scores first in the OECD on a range of measures of quality of the education system (Scorecard 3), but is behind most OECD members on measures of accessibility and responsiveness of education, such as early childhood enrolment rates and availability of educational material (Scorecards 1 and 2).

Chapter 14 – Serving citizens

Estonia has made highly progressive changes to taxes and transfers to help combat poverty. Estonia has the 7th highest poverty rate in the OECD, and poverty increased during 2012-18. However, Estonia made the most progressive changes to its tax and transfer systems of any OECD member during 2012-18 (Figure 13.8), and now ranks 12th best in the OECD on inequality after taxes and transfers (Figure 13.7).
### Government resources

#### Government expenditures (2019, 2020) % of GDP
- **2020:**
  - General government: 45% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 41% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Fiscal balance: -3.2% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government gross debt: 39% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
- **2019:**
  - General government: 56% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 39% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Fiscal balance: -4.9% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government gross debt: 37% (Source: OECD National Accounts)

#### Government investment (2019, 2020) % of GDP
- **2020:**
  - General government: 5.7% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 4.9% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Fiscal balance: 0.1% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government gross debt: 13% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
- **2019:**
  - General government: 6.3% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 3.3% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Fiscal balance: -3.2% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government gross debt: 13% (Source: OECD National Accounts)

#### Fiscal balance (2019, 2020) % of GDP
- **2020:**
  - General government: 109% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 24% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
- **2019:**
  - General government: 13% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 13% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)

#### Government gross debt (SNA definition, 2019, 2020) % of GDP
- **2020:**
  - General government: 37% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 56% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
- **2019:**
  - General government: 227% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Government investment: 227% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)

#### Government expenditures by selected functions (2019) % of GDP
- **Environmental protection:** 0.7%
- **Education:** 6.0%
- **General public services:** 5.1%
- **Health:** 5.4%
- **Social protection:** 5.3%
- **Other:** 7.9%

#### General government employment as a % of total employment (2019)
- **18-34:**
  - Men: 23% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Women: 19%
- **35-54:**
  - Men: 52% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Women: 25%
- **55+:**
  - Men: 55% (Source: OECD National Accounts)
  - Women: 26%

#### Central government workforce by age (2020)
- **18-34:**
  - Men: 23% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Women: 19%
- **35-54:**
  - Men: 52% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Women: 25%
- **55+:**
  - Men: 55% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Women: 26%

#### Share of women in management positions in the central government (2020)
- **Senior management:**
  - Men: 37% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Women: 48%
- **Middle management:**
  - Men: 56% (Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments)
  - Women: 48%
Public governance practices

Composite indices of public service leadership and capability (2020)
From 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Development of a diverse workforce: 0.48
- Policies to manage senior civil servants: 0.49

Green budgeting tools (2021)
- Ex ante or ex post environmental assessment: NO GREEN BUDGETING 12 YES 2 NO
- Ex ante or ex post green budget tagging: NO GREEN BUDGETING 7 YES 7 NO

Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)

- Public procurement strategy includes responsible business conduct objectives on...
  - Environment: NO 21 YES 5 NO
  - Human rights: NO 13 YES 13 NO
  - Gender: NO 8 YES 18 NO

- Infrastructure strategy includes objectives on...
  - Environment: YES 19 YES 5 NO
  - Human rights: NO 5 YES 19 NO
  - Gender: NO 7 YES 17 NO

Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)

- Early consultation in the regulation-making process: NOT SYSTEMATIC 8 SYSTEMATIC 2 NEVER 27 NOT SYSTEMATIC
- Centres of government consulted stakeholders on strategies to manage the COVID-19 crisis: YES 20 YES 6 NO
- Central government portal(s) for carrying out online consultations: YES 22 YES 10 NO

Digital government index (2019)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Estonia: 0.48
- OECD: 0.51
- Range of OECD country values: 0.48 0.51 0.74

Source: OECD Survey on centres of government’s role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Source: OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability
Source: OECD Survey on centres of government’s role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Source: OECD Survey on centres of government’s role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0

Source: OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability
Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0
Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0
Government results

Government provides information on law enforcement, due process and respect of human rights (2020)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil service</th>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

Citizens who express trust in public institutions (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil service</th>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gallup World Poll, World Values Survey and European Values Study.

Citizens who believe they have a say in what government does (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil service</th>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2017-2020 round of the World Values Survey

Citizens who express satisfaction with public services (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil service</th>
<th>Healthcare</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Judiciary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gallup World Poll

Income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers (Gini index, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>OECD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Range of OECD country values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>OECD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

Figure notes
- Data on public finance and economics, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 13 May 2021 and data on general government employment were extracted on 12 April 2021. The range of country values refers to year 2019.
- Fiscal balance as reported in the SNA framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- Government gross debt is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.
- The range of country values for the central government workforce by age refers to the 18-34 group.
- Data on trust in the civil service and parliament are 2018 for most countries.
- The range of country values for share of women in management positions in the central government refers to senior management.
- Citizens who express satisfaction with public services: for the judiciary and the police, the data reflect the proportion of citizens who express having confidence in the institution.
- The range of country values for income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers refers to Gini after taxes and transfers for the working age population.

Government at a Glance 2021

Published every two years, Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparable indicators on government activities and their results in OECD countries.

The 2021 edition includes input indicators on public finance and employment; while processes include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory governance, public procurement, the governance of infrastructure, public sector integrity, open government and digital government. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, political efficacy, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments’ progress in their public sector reforms.

Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2021 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/1c258f55-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm