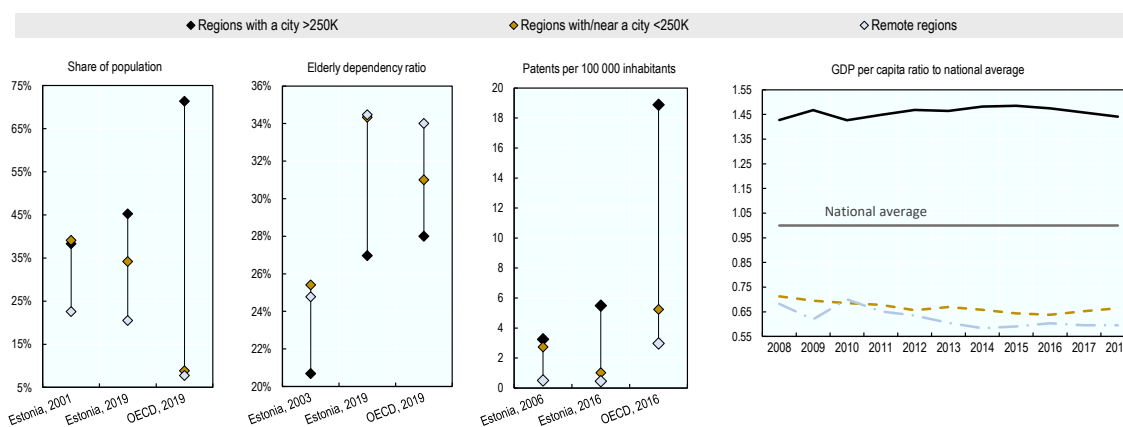


Estonia

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008- 2017 (%)	GVA per worker (10 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	0.9 (0.7)	0.4 (0.9)	71 (92)	13 (18)	4.4 (8.0)
Regions with/near a city <250K	-0.9 (0.2)	-0.9 (0.0)	43 (71)	24 (23)	5.5 (4.9)
Remote regions	-0.6 (0.5)	-0.8 (0.2)	39 (73)	31 (18)	4.0 (4.6)

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.
Source: (OECD, 2020_[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ Estonia's rural definition differs between policy proposes and statistical purposes. In case of certain rural development policy instruments, all rural municipalities and urban municipalities with less than 4,000 inhabitants are considered rural. In case of regional statistics, the settlements are defined as urban, intermediate and rural according to the population density and population size. This definition for statistical purposes was introduced in 2018. Overall, the definitions recognise three types of rural areas: mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Estonia has a national rural policy defined by the Rural Development Plan for 2014-2020. This plan is reviewed annually and the country is currently under the preparation process of the 2021-2027 plan.

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Committees (most important first)	Role
Ministry of Rural Affairs	In charge of rural development policy
Ministry of Finance	In charge of regional development policy

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Estonia's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Estonia are dedicated grants programs, contracts, and agreements with local communities.

Table 2. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Estonia	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Environment	40%	30%
Social	20%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

Table 3. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives (Order does not imply ranking)	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 2 (enhancing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management) and 3 (promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture)	Mainly grants. Also loans.
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 4 (restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry)	Grants
Environmental sustainability	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 4 (restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry) and 5 (promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors)	Grants
Service delivery	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 6 (promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas)	Grants
Quality of life/well-being of rural residents	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 6 (promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas)	Grants
Ageing and outmigration	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 2 (enhancing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management) and 6 (promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas)	Mainly grants. Also loans
Innovation support to “rural” sectors (R&D, training education)	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 1 (fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas)	Subsidised services
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	Rural development plan for 2014-2020, priority 2 (enhancing the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management), 3 (promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture) and 6 (promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas)	Mainly grants. Also loans

Note: Objectives presented are the ones with higher scores in the survey responses. Estonia ranked all objectives presented in the table with the highest score of importance.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.