

Country Profile ESTONIA

- 1. Basic information** – this should be as short as possible; doesn't need to be in paragraphs or full sentences.

Country name: Estonia

Structure of inspectorate:

There is no separate inspectorate in Estonia. Inspection is exercised by the officials of the Ministry of Education and Research.

Age of inspectorate:

Since 1st September 2017 the organisation of inspection has changed. The inspection is exercised only by the Ministry of Education and Research (previously also exercised by county government officials).

Size:

There are 17 officials in the external evaluation department of the Ministry of Education and Research. Primary task of 9 officials is to organise the conduct of inspection in preschools and schools of general education, and if necessary, to participate in the exercise of inspection.

Remits:

Inspection is conducted in private, municipal and state schools. All pre-schools, basic schools, general secondary education schools, vocational education schools, schools providing after school activities and adult training institutions are the subject for inspection.

Unit of inspection:

The legality of educational institution and the owner's actions are controlled when conducting the inspection. As a rule, lessons and activities of individual teachers are not inspected in Estonia. In general, lessons are only inspected in case of complaints about a teacher or the teaching process.

The main objective of the inspection is to ensure the accessibility of basic and secondary general education, also organisation of education and schooling, its quality and efficiency on equal bases.

What is your strapline?

–

Relationship with government:

We are operate as part of the Education Ministry, but we are allowed to publish reports without govt approval. The objectives of the activities of the external evaluation department of the Ministry of Education and Research are: to ensure adequate evaluation of the quality, lawfulness and purposefulness of the education and youth work system in the ministry's area of government; to develop the quality assurance

system of education and youth work, including the effective functioning and development of the inspection system.

Accountability:

The results of administrative supervision are set out in a statement. The statement is published online and it contains brief details on the education institution, the results of administrative supervision, the time and description of offences, the precepts and proposals made, and the term of notification of complying with the precepts. The statement is communicated to the head of the school and the owner of the school within 60 calendar days as of the commencement of administrative supervision.

By the end of each calendar year, the Ministry of Education and Research composes an overview of the functioning of the education system which also includes conclusions and analysis of the results of inspection.

2. Evaluation process – this should be in short paragraphs

Self-evaluation:

In 2006, the Ministry of Education and Research established a mandatory requirement for internal evaluation in pre-primary institutions, general education institutions and vocational schools. The methods for carrying out internal evaluation are chosen by the educational institutions.

What do you examine during inspection?

Only schooling and education activities are controlled during the inspection. The fulfilment and implementation of legal acts are inspected as well. For cases in the area of administrative inspection (primarily administration and economic activities), applications for exercising administrative inspection may be submitted to the owner of an educational institution. As a rule, lessons and activities of individual teachers are not inspected in Estonia.

Do you have an inspection framework? Is this a quality or compliance model?

The fulfilment and implementation of legal acts are inspected as well.

Inspection time and resource:

The inspection takes up from 3 to 4 working days. The team that exercises inspection usually consists of 1–2 officials. An inspection official may include external experts.

Frequency of inspections:

Thematic inspection was carried out from 2006–2017. During each academic year thematic inspection was exercised in ca 10% of educational institutions. Since 1st September 2017 the thematic inspection is not conducted anymore. Therefore, if necessary, it is possible to control the educational institutions' activities in certain field. The tendency of inspection is to make a transition to risk-based evaluation, which means that an educational institution will be inspected only if the results are below imposed education standard, for example when the students' study results are low, the number of pupils dropping out of school or repeating one class is large or when there are complaints about the educational institution.

Main business:

The Ministry of Education and Research may monitor data about an educational institution's activities through the Estonian Education Information System and plan the exercising of inspection where necessary.

Complaints about the activities of an educational institution may be lodged by students, teachers, parents and other interest groups to the owner or the Ministry of Education and Research. Problems are first attempted to be solved through advisory services, asking an educational institution for additional information and/or reviewing documentation. If problem-solving requires the exercising of inspection, then the inspection is exercised.

We don't take part in competition of headmasters

3. Consequences of inspection

Reporting:

The reports of the inspections carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research are available on the ministry's website (www.hm.ee/en). During the inspection, an overview of the effectiveness of educational institutions is obtained (since the education policy took effect). Summaries of the results of inspectorate are composed each academic year at the level of county government and at the state level. The information received is used for the dissemination of the best practice in educational institutions; for the training of heads and teachers of educational institutions; for the introduction of necessary changes to legislation; and for making decisions concerning education policy.

Grade:

Educational institutions are not graded.

Knowledge sharing:

The information received is used for the dissemination of the best practice in educational institutions; for the training of heads and teachers of educational institutions; for the introduction of necessary changes to legislation; and for making decisions concerning education policy.

What happens following an inspection?

A report of inspection may include advisory proposals or compulsory precepts for the head or owner of an educational institution. In case of non-compliance with precepts, penalty payment of up to 640€ may be demanded or the education- or activity licence of the educational institution may be revoked.

What is the stated purpose of your inspectorate?

The external evaluation department of the ministry develops an external evaluation system of education and youth work; plans and co-ordinates activities which help to ensure quality; organises the elaboration of legislation in the area of external evaluation; advises (in its area of activity) specialists in the area of education and youth work; advises officials exercising inspection over educational institutions and

co-ordinates their co-operation; and co-ordinates co-operation with international organisations in the area of external evaluation.