

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

The government of Estonia has 11 ministries overseeing different policy areas: Education and Research; Justice; Defense; Environment; Culture; Rural Affairs; Economic Affairs and Communications; Finance; the Interior; Social Affairs; and Foreign Affairs. Below are overviews of the two key ministries with responsibility for education and training.



The **Ministry of Education and Research**¹ is responsible for national policies related to education, research, youth, and language as well as: managing pre-primary, basic, general upper secondary, vocational secondary, higher, hobby, and adult education; organizing research and development activities and youth work; and drafting corresponding legal acts.

The main tasks of the Ministry of Education and Research include:

- Developing national curricula and other standards;
- Developing the state supervision and quality assurance system;
- Planning state-commissioned education;
- Developing the training system for teachers and youth workers;
- Informing the public about progress in education, research, youth, and language policies; and
- International cooperation.

The current Minister of Education and Research is [Mailis Reps](#), a member of the Centre Party.

Innove Foundation

The Innove Foundation is not a government ministry; it is a nonprofit foundation created by the Ministry of Education and Research in 2003. It is one of seven foundations the Ministry has established to carry out specific tasks, and it operates separately from but under the supervision of the Ministry.

The Innove Foundation is responsible for coordinating and promoting general and vocational education, which includes:

- Developing curriculum and external assessments;
- Providing guidance and professional development to schools, and information to students and parents, about the national curriculum and assessments;

¹ <https://www.hm.ee/en/ministry/introduction>

- Managing vocational education qualifications; and
- Operating a nationwide network of county-level counseling centers, called *Rajaleidja* (“Pathfinder”) Centers, which provide: access to support specialists, such as social workers or speech therapists, for students and schools; and free career counseling for young people up to age 26.



The main objective of the **Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications**² is to increase the competitiveness of Estonian companies and thus the prosperity of the Estonian people. This includes facilitating: entrepreneurship and innovation; an efficient and safe transportation system; a constantly developing information society; and an environmentally friendly energy supply at a reasonable price.

The Ministry formulates and carries out the state’s economic policy and economic development plans in the following sectors: construction and housing; the postal service; energy; information society; economic development and entrepreneurship; transportation; tourism; the European Union market; and foreign trade.

There are two ministers responsible for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The current Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure is [Taavi Aas](#), a member of the Centre Party. The current Minister of Foreign Trade and Information Technology is [Kaimar Karu](#), who was just appointed earlier this month and is not a member of any political party.

² <https://www.mkm.ee/en/ministry-contact/introduction-ministry>