

Estonia, a very small and agile country with networks in place instead of rigid structures, organised a whole-of-government response to COVID-19 with scientific guidance from a scientific advisory board – comprising professors from the University of Tartu, doctors from regional hospitals and a representative of the National Institute of Health Development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be the most significant disruption to health systems in recent decades. It has shed light on the vulnerabilities and challenges within countries' emergency preparedness strategies and on their ability to provide healthcare services to their populations. In response to the enduring effects of the pandemic, Estonia is implementing policies to fortify its preparedness for future shocks.

The Emergency Act in Estonia, that provides the legal framework for managing emergencies, including public health emergencies, in Estonia and grants authorities certain powers and responsibilities to effectively respond to crises and ensure coordination across sectors. See <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/526072023006/consolide>. The Act also allows the government to issue additional regulations, guidelines, and orders to manage specific emergencies. The Act as amended in 2022, is compliant with Art. 6 of the EU Regulation on Serious Cross-border Health Threats.

Estonia has also the "Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act" that establishes the legal framework for communicable disease prevention and control measures at the national level. It also links with policies and regulations at the intermediate public health response level to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to disease control see <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/515032023009/consolide>.

Immunisation rates in Estonia are persistently lower than the EU averages. Estonia is making some progress on tackling challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change. Progress is also being made on crises that are unfolding at a slower pace, such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and climate change. Antibiotic consumption in the community is low in Estonia compared to other European countries. However, consumption of broad-spectrum antibiotics is high and rising, indicating a need to review prescribing patterns (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2022).

While the rate of AMR is low in Estonia compared to other European countries, multisectoral collaboration between the health, veterinary and agricultural sectors is also weaker (WHO Regional Office for Europe/ECDC, 2022). To date, Estonia is not enrolled in the WHO Global AMR Surveillance System.

The climate change adaptation plan has been merged with the environmental strategy to form the Environmental Development Plan 2030 (Ministry of the Environment, 2023). Health goals of this strategy focus on monitoring, risk management and rescue capacity. (from State of Health in the EU - Estonia - Country Health Profile 2021

[https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021\\_chp\\_et\\_english.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_et_english.pdf) and State of Health in the EU - Estonia - Country Health Profile 2023 [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023\\_chp\\_ee\\_english.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023_chp_ee_english.pdf) )

## ***R&I Policies and Strategies***

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? No

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? Yes  
R&I portal [www.etis.ee](http://www.etis.ee)

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; AMR; Monkeypox

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
AMR	<a href="https://www.terviseamet.ee/et/nakkushaigus-ed/inimesele/antimikroobne-resistentsus">https://www.terviseamet.ee/et/nakkushaigus-ed/inimesele/antimikroobne-resistentsus</a>	
Estonian open data portal	<a href="https://avaandmed.eesti.ee/">https://avaandmed.eesti.ee/</a>	Estonia is small and there is no specific databases. All data are in one storage.
Health Board Coronavirus dataset	<a href="https://www.terviseamet.ee/en/coronavirus-dataset">https://www.terviseamet.ee/en/coronavirus-dataset</a>	
Infectious disease research	<a href="https://www.tai.ee/et/teadustoo/teadustoo-ulevaade/nakkushaiguste-uuringud">https://www.tai.ee/et/teadustoo/teadustoo-ulevaade/nakkushaiguste-uuringud</a>	
Monkeypox	<a href="https://www.terviseamet.ee/et/ahvirouged">https://www.terviseamet.ee/et/ahvirouged</a>	

Statistical data on the incidence of infectious diseases <https://www.terviseamet.ee/et/nakkushaigus/tervishoiutootajale/nakkushaiguste-sse-haigestumine>

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs?

Yes, Estonia has an interministerial coordinating network, that involves all bodies, as well as there is a scientific advisory committee at the Ministry of Social Affairs

## ***R&I Infrastructures***

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Max Capacity	Available for	Open to
Estonian Compute Infrastructure (ETAIS) - PARI - Nordic Pandemic Research Infrastructure		<a href="https://neic.no/pari/">https://neic.no/pari/</a>			
Health Board Public Health Laboratory	Open genome deposits (viruses, bacteria, AMR)	<a href="https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor">https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor</a>		Yes	Yes
Health Board Public Health Laboratory	BSL3	<a href="https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor">https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor</a>		Yes	Yes
National Centre for Laboratory Research and Risk Assessment	National reference laboratory	<a href="https://labris.agri.ee/en/node/918">https://labris.agri.ee/en/node/918</a>		Yes	Yes
SIME ABSL3 laboratory (Institute of Biomedicine & Translational Medicine at the University of Tartu)	BSL3	<a href="https://biomeditsiin.ut.ee/en/content/bsl-laboratories-maariamoisa-field">https://biomeditsiin.ut.ee/en/content/bsl-laboratories-maariamoisa-field</a>			
Tartu University Hospital	Clinical trials	<a href="https://www.kliinikum.ee/en/research-and-teaching/clinical-research-centre/">https://www.kliinikum.ee/en/research-and-teaching/clinical-research-centre/</a>		Yes	Yes
University of Tartu	BSL3	<a href="https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor">https://terviseamet.ee/et/laborid/laborid/rahvatervise-labori-tallinna-labor-ja-nakkushaiguste-labor</a>		Yes	Yes

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

[Clinical Research Centre - Tartu Ülikooli Kliinikum](#)

## **Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources**

### **Basic Research**

url [www.etag.ee](http://www.etag.ee)  
[www.etis.ee](http://www.etis.ee) .  
source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Applied Research**

url [www.etag.ee](http://www.etag.ee) and all ministries  
funding for applied research accessible for industry? Yes  
source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Translational Research**

url [www.etag.ee](http://www.etag.ee)  
funding accessible for industry? Yes  
source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Clinical Research (in general)**

url [www.etag.ee](http://www.etag.ee)  
funding accessible for industry? Yes  
source of funding Public (research) agencies  
phase funded? Phase 2; Phase 3; Phase 4

### **Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)**

url <https://ravimiamet.ee/>  
accessible for industry? Yes  
source of funding Public (research) agencies  
phase funded ? Phase 2; Phase 3; Phase 4

### **Innovation Projects**

url [www.eas.ee/en](http://www.eas.ee/en)  
funding for innovation projects accessible for industry?  
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Flexible funding in case of emergency possible

## **R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat**

R&I actors, authorities and processes activated ministries involved in case of an outbreak; mobilisation processes of research forces; (existing) national or regional structures that advise governments on R&I during emergencies; administrative procedures to diminish the administrative burden for researchers and funding administrations; incentives ensuring qualitative scientific dissemination during a crisis; international scientific collaboration in case of an outbreak

Name	Description	url
Agriculture and Food Board	Regulating and supporting the agricultural and food sectors, including overseeing agricultural policies, food safety, and rural development programs. regulating and supporting the agricultural and food sectors, including overseeing agricultural policies, food safety, and rural development programs	<a href="https://pta.agri.ee/en">https://pta.agri.ee/en</a>

all ministries fund applied policy related R&D

Emergency Act Provides the legal framework for managing emergencies, including public health emergencies, in Estonia. It grants authorities certain powers and responsibilities to effectively respond to crises and ensure coordination across sectors. The Act also allows the <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/526072023006/consolide>

government to issue additional regulations, guidelines, and orders to manage specific emergencies

Entreprise Estonia	funds R&D support for enterprises	<a href="http://www.eas.ee/en">www.eas.ee/en</a>
Estonian Research Council (ETAG)	ETAG is the only research funding body in Estonia; funds all types R&D; Estonian Research Council facilitates and funds research activities across various disciplines to promote scientific excellence and innovation within Estonia	<a href="https://www.etag.ee/en/estonian-research-council/">https://www.etag.ee/en/estonian-research-council/</a>
Health Insurance Fund (Tervisekassa)	Responsible for administering the national health insurance system, collecting contributions, and providing access to healthcare services for insured individuals	<a href="https://www.tervisekassa.ee/en">https://www.tervisekassa.ee/en</a>
Ministry of Education and Research		<a href="https://hm.ee/en">https://hm.ee/en</a>
Ministry of social affairs	Responsible for developing and implementing social policies, healthcare, and welfare programs to promote the well-being and social protection of the population	<a href="https://sm.ee/en">https://sm.ee/en</a>
National Institute for Health Development (TAI)	Focused on public health research, health promotion, and the development of health policies and strategies to improve the well-being of the population	<a href="https://en.tai.ee/en/">https://en.tai.ee/en/</a>
State Agency of Medicines (Ravimiamet)	State Agency of Medicines is a governmental body under the Ministry of Social Affairs. Its main responsibility is the protection and promotion of public and animal health, through the supervision of medicines for human and veterinary use. Responsible for regulating and overseeing the safety, quality, and effectiveness of medicines and medical devices in the country	<a href="https://ravimiamet.ee/">https://ravimiamet.ee/</a>
The Health Board (Terviseamet)	Competent authority for Surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable diseases, risk analysis in epidemiology. Responsible for public health and healthcare-related matters, including disease control, health promotion, healthcare quality oversight, and management of health emergencies	<a href="https://www.terviseamet.ee/en">https://www.terviseamet.ee/en</a>



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