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Estonian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

Priorities and events of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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Margus Haidak

Janne Pukk

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research

Higher Education Department

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Estonia in facts

- **Population** of just 1.3 million but larger than Denmark and the Netherlands (45 339 sq. km).
- Over 2200 Islands, 1000 lakes and 7000 rivers.
- World's largest collection of **national folk songs** (over 133,000).
- According to WHO, Estonia ranks 4th for urban air quality in the world.
- Most **start-ups** per capita in Europe.
- One of the **highest adult literacy** rates in the world – 99.8 per cent, according to Unesco.
- 50% of Estonia's territory is covered with forest with well-kept wildlife



Did you know that in Estonia ...

- everything can be done online except for marriage, divorce and selling your house.
- 98% of people declare taxes online and it takes 3 minutes
- it takes just 3 hours to start a company
- digital signature saves 5 days a year
- 30% of people vote online



Higher Education in Estonia

- Since 2012/2013, higher education is free of charge for those studying full-time and in Estonian.
- Tertiary educational attainment is one of the highest in the EU – 45% in 2015.
- Foreign students comprise as much as 8% of the total student body, biggest number comes from Finland, Russia and India.



Estonian Presidency key focus areas (1)

The overarching aim is to ensure that the EU remains united and decisive.

- **An open and innovative European economy**
 - EU's four freedoms, trade negotiations, stable banking sector, well-functioning electricity market
- **Safe and secure Europe**
 - Fight against terrorism and organised crime, migration, Eastern partnership, EU borders and internal security, EU-NATO partnership

Estonian Presidency key focus areas (2)

- **Digital Europe and the free flow of data**
 - Cross-border e-commerce, e-services and digital public services, secure electronic communications across Europe
- **Inclusive and sustainable Europe**
 - Labour mobility, equal opportunities in the labour market and social inclusion, sustainable environment

Priorities in education and training

Taking forward the [EU skills agenda](#) and subsequent initiatives on education and youth

- The package of [modernisation agenda](#) of higher education (Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education)
- Recommendation on [Graduate tracking](#)
- Revision of the [Europass framework](#)
- **Contemporary approach to teaching and learning.**

Estonian Presidency events related to the higher education (1)

Estonian EU Council Presidency Conference Contemporary Approaches to Learning and Teaching

19-20 September, 2017

Tallinn, Tallinn University

The conference focuses on the adaptation of learning and teaching roles in response to the wide-ranging and increasingly rapid pace of change in Europe and the world at large.

3 parallel sessions:

- Learning environment
- Involving the community
- Changing roles of students and educators from the new generation



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Meeting of Director –General for Higher Education

- 12-13 October 2017 in Tallinn
- Focus: The contemporary approach to teaching and learning, particularly the importance of the role of teaching staff in HE
 - career model
 - reward and support system
- Outcomes from PLA in Paris, 12-13 July will provide input to our discussions.
- The package of modernisation agenda of higher education.
- Future priorities of Education and Training framework.



Bologna Follow-up Group Meeting

9-10 November 2017, Tartu

Venue: University of Tartu



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Why Tartu?

- One of the oldest university in Northern and Eastern Europe (est. in 1632) – University of Tartu
- Top 2% of the world's best university
- The result of regional policy the Ministry of Education and Research is situated outside of capital Tallinn



Practical Information

By plane from
Helsinki to Tartu

By plane to
Tallinn and by
bus to Tartu





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THANK YOU!
AITÄH!