

FULL PROGRAMME

Friday, 5.10.2012

Welcome reception at the [museum Kiek in de K k](#) from 19.00 to 21.00.
Komandandi tee 2, Tallinn [Map](#).

Saturday, 6.10.2012

Conference programme takes place at European House, R vala street 4,
Ernst&Young Office, floor 7. [Map](#)

Policy laboratory Estonia: innovation and transparency

Estonia is a small country and it likes clarity and order. The prevailing feeling is that decisions should be taken rationally and efficiently. Coupled to the fact that Estonians are keen to innovate, these characteristics provide the basis for changing the ways in which policies are designed, implemented and evaluated. In the past few years, Estonia has seen several initiatives to improve the quality of the policy life cycle, testing what works and what doesn't. You may think of it as a policy laboratory. During the day, we'll introduce several of these experiments and innovations to you, hoping they'll trigger thoughts from your side as well. The programme was put together by ESTES, the Estonian Evaluation Society. Established at the end of 2010, we've since then made a proposal for a good practice description for evaluations in Estonia in cooperation with ministries and other institutions commissioning evaluations. In addition, a summer school on impact evaluation was organised this year, as well as quarterly meetings among evaluators in order to assess the process and results of evaluations carried out in Estonia lately.

Moderator

The day will be moderated by Klaas-Jan Reincke, chairman of the board of ESTES. Originally from the Netherlands, he has lived in Estonia for the last 10 years. He is currently running the Centre for Pure Development (CPD), founding member of ESTES and one of the key companies offering evaluation services in Estonia and other new Member States. Klaas-Jan has been involved in numerous evaluation assignments across Europe since 1997. At the moment, he is part of the core team of the Ex Ante evaluation for the 2014-2020 period for Structural Funds in Estonia and responsible for its methodology. In the past, Klaas-Jan has been core evaluator and team leader of evaluations of the Phare, Transition Facility and Schengen Facility programmes in most new Member States. Also, he has been responsible for or participated in Ex Ante, Interim and Ex Post evaluations of mainstream Structural Funds programmes, transnational cooperation programmes and community initiatives such as Equal.

10.00-10.30 OPENING WORK-SHOP: Klaas-Jan Reincke

10.30-11.30 SESSION I “Policy evaluation challenges from the perspective of policy makers”

The first session approaches policy evaluation traditions and challenges from the perspective of Estonian policy makers. The role of policy evaluation and independent expertise in policy making process (value added by the evaluators). The expectations of policy makers towards policy evaluators (the usage of larger variability of evaluation methods innovative approaches, counterfactual impact evaluation , evaluation ethics). Evaluation challenges for EU 2014-2020 programming period (main developments and changes compared to the previous programming period accent on impact evaluations). The international evaluation partnership for capacity building and carrying out cross border joint evaluations on horizontal issues . Monitoring and usage of evaluation recommendations.

SPEAKERS: Ms Miryam Vahtra, Ms Mari Lahtmets

Miryam Vahtra is the coordinating official for evaluations in the Ministry of Finance in Estonia. With an intermezzo of maternity leave of a number of years, she has been dealing with evaluation since 2006. She is a member of the Evaluation Working Group, consisting of most of the institutions commissioning evaluation in Estonia.

Mari Lahtmets is advisor to the Fiscal Policy department in the Ministry of Finance and closely involved in the preparation of strategic documents for the Structural Funds for the period 2014-2020. Together with Miryam Vahtra, she is one of the key persons representing the Ministry of Finance as the organisation commissioning the Ex Ante Evaluation, currently being carried out.

PANEL QUESTION: Evaluation plans and requirements for describing evaluation methodologies. What are the tools for monitoring of recommendations (IT or others)?

PANEL: policy-makers

11.30-11.45 COFFEE

11.45-12.45 II SESSION “FIGHTING POPULISM AND PROMOTING POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN ESTONIA: THE ROLE OF POLICY RESEARCHERS ”

The second session opens up a discussion about the use of evaluation results in the light of policy researchers’ role in fighting populism and promoting public engagement in public policy debates. In 2011, prior to the Parliamentary elections in Estonia, Praxis in cooperation with Estonian Public Broadcasting launched a project to improve the quality of public debate on policy alternatives. The project activities were

planned and implemented in three stages: 1) analysis of the election campaign platforms before the election in 2011; 2) analysis of the Programme of the Coalition of the new government for 2011-2015, including budget analysis; and 3) monitoring the implementation of the Government Action Plan. The analysis was primarily based on the policy research and expert opinions, but also engaged civil society organisations and advocacy groups in commenting policy plans.

SPEAKER: Hille Hinsberg

Hille works as the Governance and Civil Society Programme Manager at the Praxis Centre for Policy Studies. She deals with topics that range from open governance and e-democracy, to impact assessment of social enterprises, to integration of ethnic minorities. The main focus is on fostering government –to-citizens dialogue. Hille is the initiator of Government Watch. The project promotes open governance and better accountability, by running a portal that keeps track of the pledges that the current government has made during elections and encourages comments by experts and wider public. Hille is an active member of the Estonian Open Data Community, being one of the authors of a visualized interactive tool on Estonian state budget www.meieraha.eu and further initiatives on government transparency. Having worked for the Government Office as an advisor on civil society engagement, Hille Hinsberg is also one of the authors of Code of Good Practice of Engagement, which sets the principles and procedures for better involvement of NGOs and citizens in policymaking and which serves as an good example for the Code of Good Practice of Evaluation.

PANEL QUESTIONS: Where does the responsibility of evaluators end? Who are the real users of policy research? How should evaluation results be promoted in wider public?

PANEL: policy researchers, representatives of civic society, politicians

12.45-13.45 LUNCH

13.45-14.45 III SESSION “Methodological challenges for policy evaluation”

The third session will invite participants to consider the future of policy evaluation methods. Which kind of developments could be expected from policy-makers (institutional rearrangements, openness, national vs EU level etc)? What could be the ideal picture for the role of policy evaluation? What is the relevance of different evaluation methods both in the current climate and in future policy environments (are there country-specific practical examples)? Are there field-specific differences which can be explored (field-based practical examples)? The session is

intended to be practical and interactive with an opportunity for evaluators to share their own experiences of policy evaluation trends across a broad range of fields.

SPEAKER: Rebecca Allinson

Rebecca Allinson is a Senior Consultant in the Technopolis Brighton Practice. The majority of Rebecca's experience is in UK and European Policy studies and evaluations covering education, research, enterprise, regional policy and the information society. Clients include National Governments in Europe as well as the European Commission and the OECD. As well as designing and executing evaluation studies, Rebecca also teaches evaluation to new practitioners and to regional stakeholders in the UK.

PANEL QUESTION: How are the evaluation culture and methods developing in Estonia? What need to be changed? How has the role of evaluators changed? Are they considered more as auditors or advisors in the policy-making process?

PANEL: policy evaluators

14.45-15.00 COFFEE

15.00-15.30 IV SESSION „Good Practice Guidelines in Policy Evaluation“

Estonian Evaluation Society has initiated the process of compiling the Good Practice Guidelines in Policy Evaluation. The Guidelines determines the main principals of policy evaluations that will be agreed by the evaluators as well as policy makers. By compiling this document ESTES aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of policy evaluations. The fourth session will introduce this initiative and will invite the participants to share their own practices.

SPEAKER: Merilin Truuväart

Merilin Truuväart is a Senior Consultant and Project Manager in Ernst & Young Tallinn office. Merilin is leading the working team responsible for compiling the Good Practice Guidelines in Policy Evaluations. She has a wide experience in policy analysis and evaluation projects carried out in Estonia. She has worked with the majority of Estonian ministries and other larger public enterprises. Over the past five years, she has participated in roughly 10 different policy analysis and evaluation projects, working as either the project manager or analyst on topics like regional development, economics or the EU resources.

15.30-16.00 CLOSING REMARKS

AFTER THE CONFERENCE - from 17.00 to 19.00 a sightseeing tour in the fabulous Medieval Old Town of Tallinn which is listed in UNESCO World Heritage