



Statistical Data on Women Entrepreneurs in Europe

Country Fiche

Estonia

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Enterprise
and Industry



Panteia

Research to Progress

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Summary

This country fiche is prepared in the context of the project Women entrepreneurs in Europe carried out for DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission. The project objective was to collect, analyse, and systematically present the most recent data on women entrepreneurs in the EU-28 and Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Iceland, Israel, Turkey, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway and Serbia (Europe-37).

The key findings are presented in the report Women entrepreneurs in Europe. Each country fiche is based on national and international data sources, such as the Labour Force Survey. For comparison, data from international harmonised databases have been used where possible¹. In contrast to the main report of the study, no estimations or extrapolations are included.

In 2012, around 29% of all entrepreneurs in Estonia were women compared to 31% in the EU-28. The majority of these women entrepreneurs (72%) were solo entrepreneurs.

Women entrepreneurs constituted about 5% of the women in the active labour force (entrepreneurship rate). This was significantly lower than the EU-28 average entrepreneurship rate (10%). The proportion of men entrepreneurs of men in the active labour force in Estonia (12%) was also lower than the EU-28 average.

Most women entrepreneurs in Estonia work full-time. In 2012, about 26% of women entrepreneurs worked part-time in their enterprises and this percentage was lower than the EU-28 average (30%).

In 2012, the highest proportions of women entrepreneurs in the total number of entrepreneurs in a sector were in the sector group, of other activities, professional, scientific and technical activities, and wholesale and retail trade. The lowest proportions were in the sector group construction, and agriculture, forestry and fishing. Compared to the EU-28, the percentages were higher in professional, scientific and technical activities, transportation and storage and lower in arts, entertainment and recreation.

Women entrepreneurs in Estonia are slightly older than men entrepreneurs. In 2012, the proportion in the age group 25-49 years was the same as for men entrepreneurs, and the proportion in the group 65 years and over, was higher. On average women entrepreneurs are younger than men entrepreneurs in the EU. The average education level of women entrepreneurs was higher than that of men entrepreneurs. Compared to the total EU, women entrepreneurs in Estonia had a higher education level.

In 2012, the average working week for women entrepreneurs in Estonia was 35 hours (36 hours in the EU-28). Part-time women entrepreneurs worked on average 18 hours, which was on par with the part-time women entrepreneurs in the EU-28 (18 hours).

¹ This can mean that for comparison, other definitions are used than normally used at national level.



In 2012, the mean net income of women entrepreneurs (€8,688) was slightly higher than that of men entrepreneurs (€8,118) in Estonia. Compared to women entrepreneurs in EU-28, the income of the Estonian women entrepreneurs was lower.

I Number and proportion of women entrepreneurs²

In 2012, Estonia had 15,000 women entrepreneurs, including 4,000 who employed personnel³. These women entrepreneurs amounted to 29% of the total entrepreneurs and 18% of all employers, compared to the total EU proportions of 31% and 26%, respectively. The majority of women entrepreneurs (72%) were solo entrepreneurs⁴.

Since 2008, the number of women entrepreneurs in Estonia has decreased by 3% and the number of men entrepreneurs increased by 7%. The EU average of women entrepreneurs increased by 2% and the EU-average for men decreased by 1%. The number of women employing personnel decreased by 18% in Estonia, while the number of men entrepreneurs with personnel increased by 12%. The average decrease in women entrepreneurs who were employers in Estonia was higher than the EU-28 average for the same period.

table 0.1 The number of entrepreneurs, employers and solo entrepreneurs in Estonia and EU-28 by gender, 2008 and 2012 (x1000)

	Entrepreneurs		Employers		Solo entrepreneurs	
	Total 2012	% change 2008-2012	Total 2012	% change 2008-2012	Total 2012	% change 2008-2012
EU28 Men	22,842	-1%	6,976	-9%	15,866	2%
EU28 Women	10,257	2%	2,397	-2%	7,859	3%
EE Men	38	7%	19	12%	19	3%
EE Women	15	-3%	4	-18%	11	4%

Source: Panteia, based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

Entrepreneurship rate

The entrepreneurship rate is the percentage of entrepreneurs in the active labour force. In 2012, women entrepreneurs constituted about 5% of the women in the active labour force in Estonia. This was significantly lower than the EU-28 average (10%). The percentage of men entrepreneurs of men in the active labour force in Estonia (12%) was lower than the EU-28 average (19%).

The percentage of women employers of women in the active labour force was 1% compared to 2% in the EU-28 average. In the period 2003-2012, the percentage of women entrepreneurs of women in the active labour force remained at about 5%. The percentage of employers in the active labour force decreased from 2% to 1%.

² Entrepreneurs are defined as persons aged 15 years and older who work in their own business, farm or professional practice to make a profit, and spend time on the operation of a business, or are in the process of setting up a business. These entrepreneurs consider the running of their enterprises to be their main activity. This definition is the same as the definition of a self-employed person in the Labour Force Survey (LSF) database of Eurostat.

³ Employers are persons who operate their own economic enterprise, or engage independently in a profession or trade. They employ one or more persons and/or family workers.

⁴ Solo entrepreneurs are persons who operate their own economic enterprise, or engage independently in a profession or trade. They do not hire employees nor are family workers or volunteers active in their enterprise. Solo entrepreneurs are also known as own account workers.



table 0.2 Percentage of entrepreneurs in the active labour force (entrepreneurship rate) by gender in Estonia and EU-28, 2003, 2008 and 2012

	2003	2008	2012
EU28 Men	19%	19%	19%
EU28 Women	10%	10%	10%
EE Men	11%	10%	12%
EE Women	5%	5%	5%

Source: Panteia, based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

table 0.3 Percentage of employers in the active labour force by gender in Estonia and EU-28, 2003, 2008 and 2012

	2003	2008	2012
EU28 Men	7%	6%	6%
EU28 Women	3%	2%	2%
EE Men	3%	5%	6%
EE Women	2%	2%	1%

Source: Panteia, based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

II Women entrepreneurs per sector

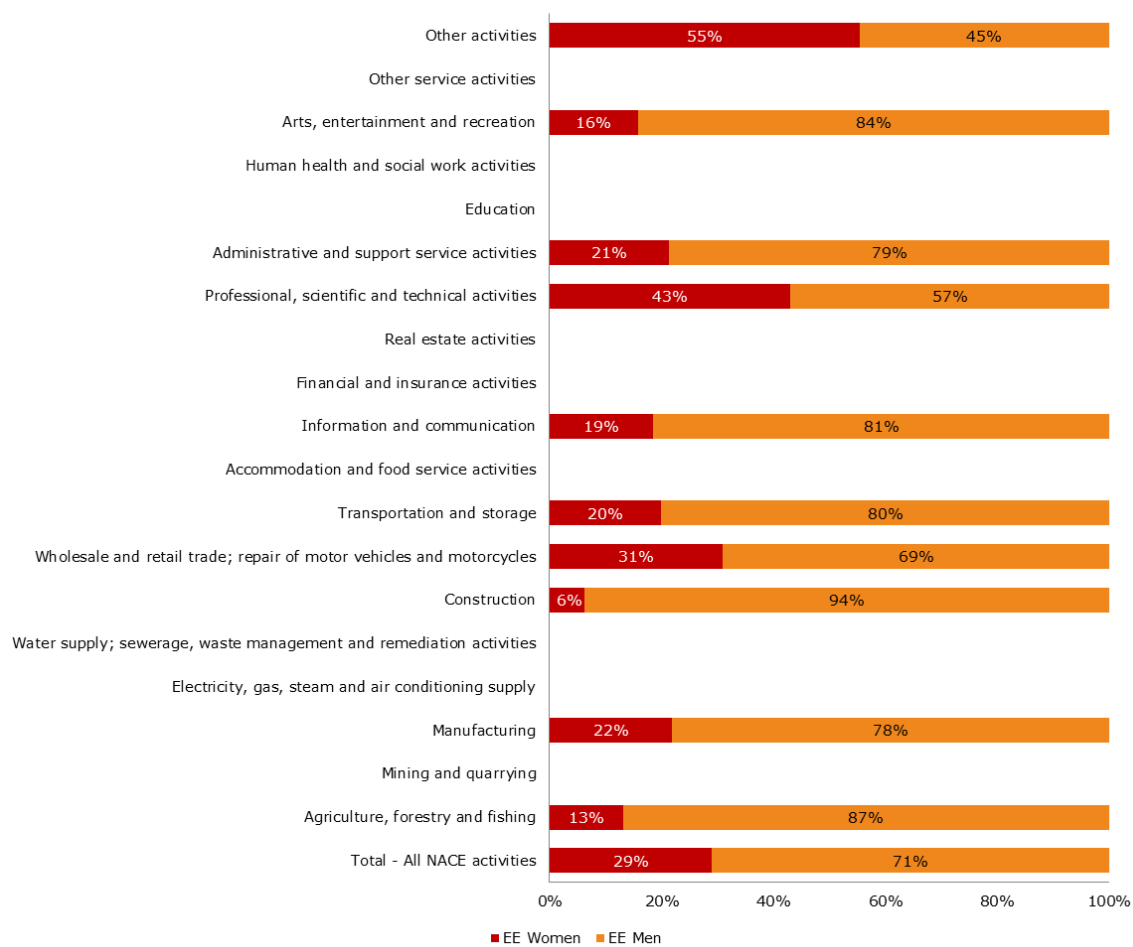
In 2012, the highest proportions of women entrepreneurs in the total number of entrepreneurs in a sector were in the sector groups, of other activities, professional, scientific and technical activities, and wholesale and, retail trade. The lowest proportions were in the sector group construction, and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Compared to the EU-28, the percentages were higher in professional, scientific and technical activities, transportation and storage and lower in arts, entertainment and recreation.

The proportions of women entrepreneurs of the total number of entrepreneurs by sector are presented for Estonia and the EU-28 in Figures 0.1 and 0.2, respectively.



figure 0.1 Percentage of women entrepreneurs of total number of entrepreneurs by sector in Estonia, 2012

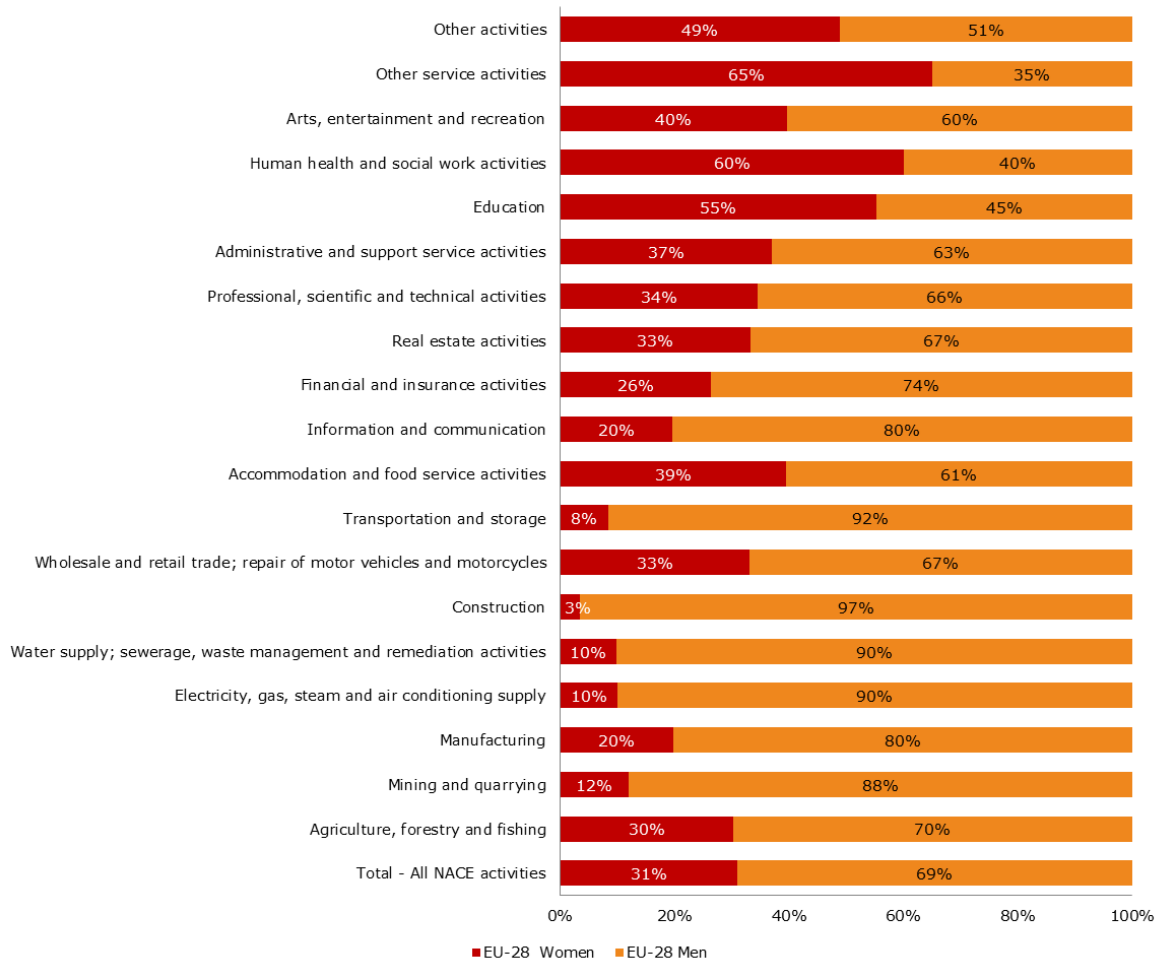


Source: Panteia, based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

Note: missing bars means no data available



figure 0.2 Percentage of women entrepreneurs of total number of entrepreneurs by sector in EU-28, 2012



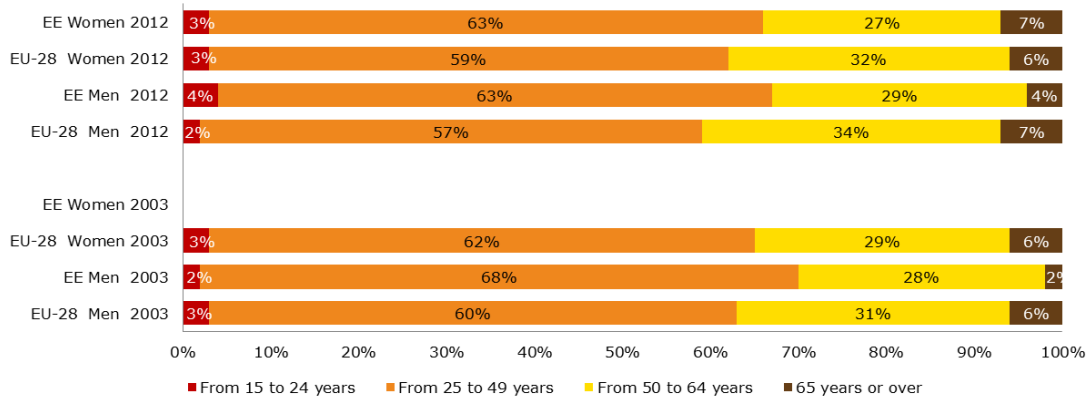
Source: Panteia, based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat



III Age of women entrepreneurs

In Estonia women entrepreneurs are slightly older than men entrepreneurs. In 2012, the proportion in the age group 25-49 years was equal, and the proportion in the group 65 years and over, was higher. On average women entrepreneurs are younger than men entrepreneurs in the EU-28.

figure 0.3 Percentage of entrepreneurs by gender and age in Estonia and the EU-28, 2003 and 2012



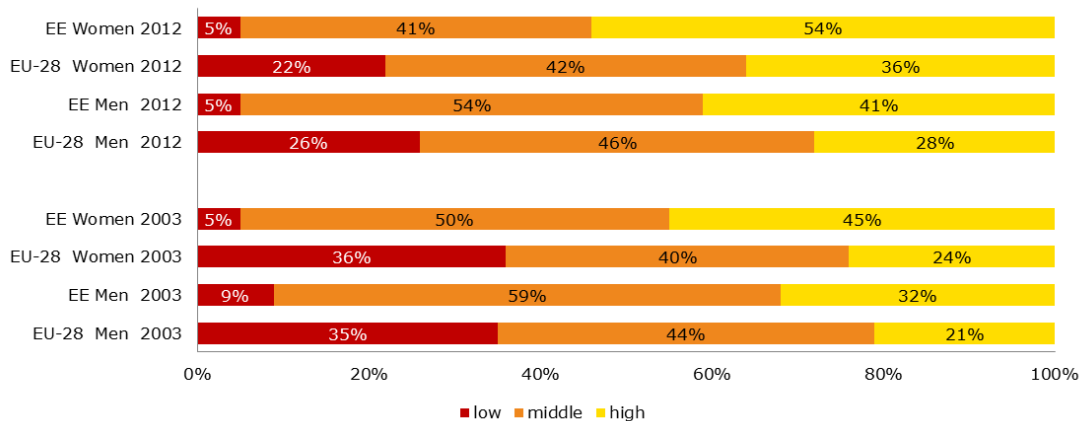
Source: Panteia based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

Note: empty bars means no data available

IV Women entrepreneurs and education level

In Estonia, the average education level of women entrepreneurs was higher than that of men entrepreneurs. In 2012, the proportion of women entrepreneurs with a high education level was higher than that of men entrepreneurs and the proportion in the middle education level was lower. Compared to the total EU, women entrepreneurs in Estonia were more highly educated. In the last 10 years the education level of women entrepreneurs has increased considerably in the EU-28.

figure 0.4 Percentage of entrepreneurs by gender and education in Estonia and EU-28, 2003 and 2012



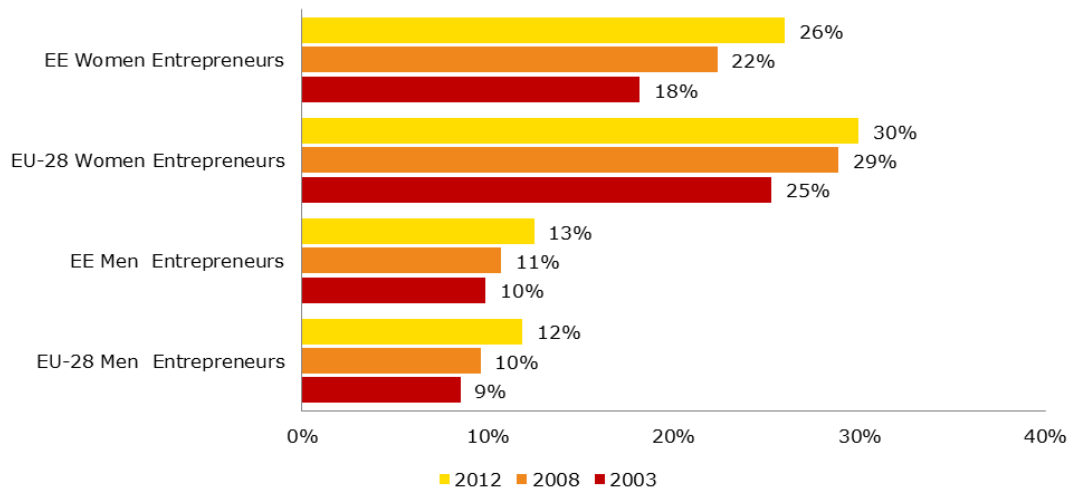
Source: Panteia based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat



V Part-time entrepreneurship

In 2012, about 26% of women entrepreneurs worked part-time in their enterprise, which was lower than the EU-28 average (30%). In Estonia about 13% of all men entrepreneurs worked part-time. This percentage was on par with the EU-28 average (12%). The differences were similar for 2003 and 2008.

figure 0.5 Percentage of part-time entrepreneurs by gender in Estonia and EU-28, 2003, 2008 and 2012



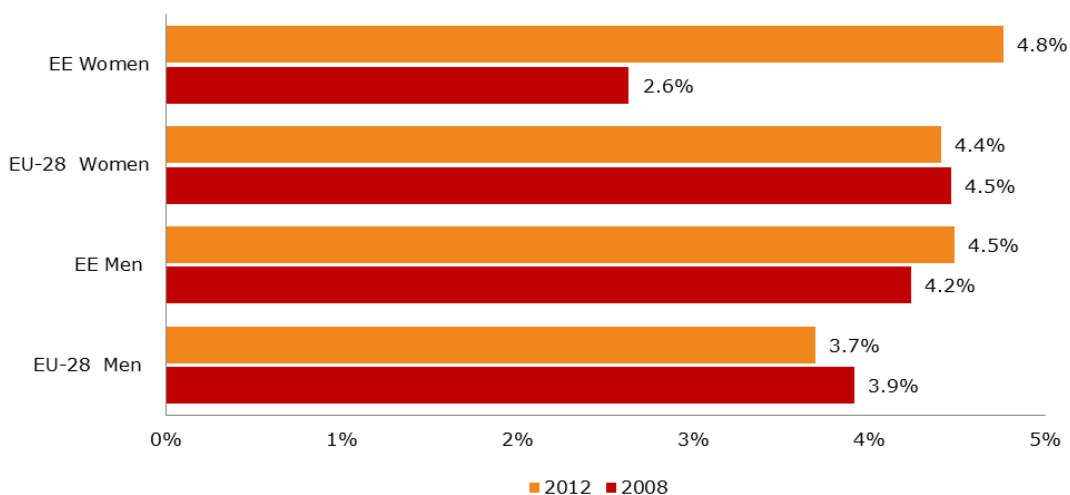
Source: Panteia based on Eurostat

There are various reasons for entrepreneurs choosing to work part-time in their enterprises such as having another job, household activities, increasing age or study.

In 2012, 4.8% of the total number of women entrepreneurs had a job in addition to being an entrepreneur while this was the case for 4.5% of the men entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs considered being an entrepreneur as their main job. See figure 0.6. Compared to 2008, this percentage increased significantly for women entrepreneurs and increased slightly for men entrepreneurs. The average percentages for women and men entrepreneurs in the EU changed slightly.



figure 0.6 Percentage of total number of entrepreneurs with a second job in addition to their enterprise in Estonia and EU-28, 2008 and 2012

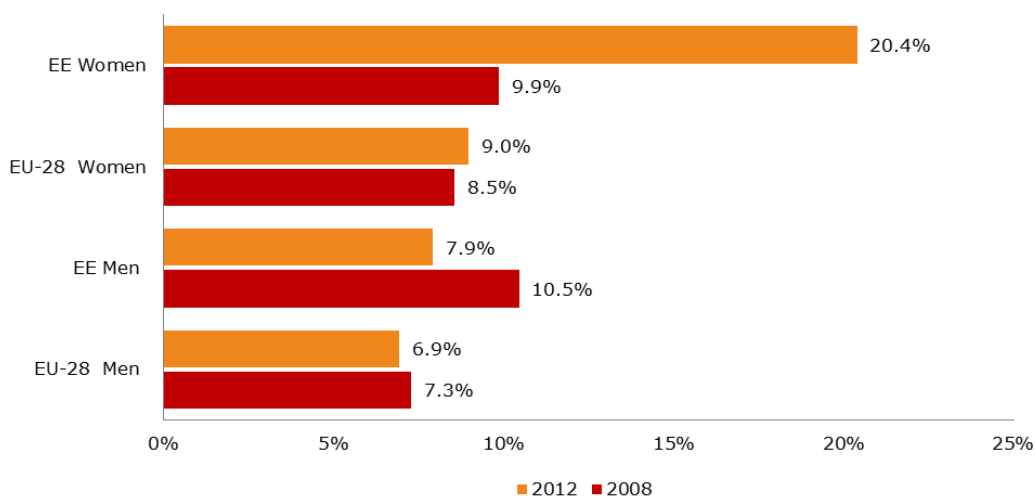


Source: Panteia based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

To gain insight into the extent to which employees in a country are entrepreneurs as a second activity, figure 0.7 presents the number of employees who are entrepreneurs as a second activity as a ratio of those persons who are entrepreneurs as main activity. Where the ratio is 100%, the number of employees who are entrepreneurs as their second activity is equal to the number of persons who are entrepreneur as main activity. In case the ratio is 0%, there are no employees who run an enterprise next to their employee-ship.

In 2012 this ratio was 20.4% for women entrepreneurs and 7.9% for men entrepreneurs. Compared to the EU-28 the ratios for women and men were higher. Compared to 2008, the ratio for women entrepreneurs increased significantly and decreased for men entrepreneurs. The average EU ratio for women and men entrepreneurs only changed slightly.

figure 0.7 Entrepreneurs with their enterprise as a second job (employee as main activity) related to entrepreneurs with their enterprise as main activity in Estonia and EU-28, 2008 and 2012



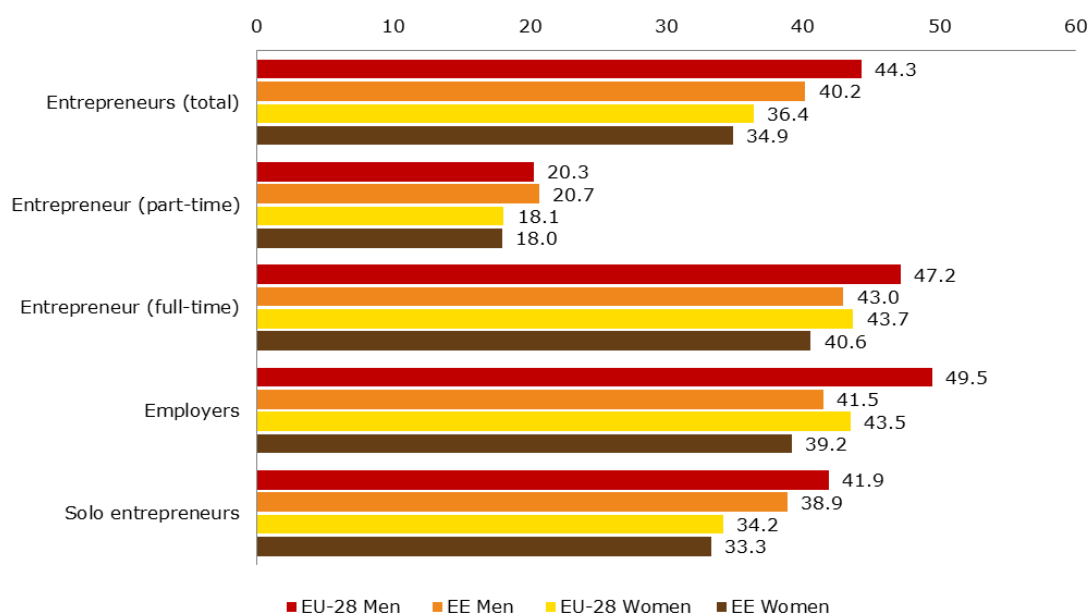
Source: Panteia based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat



VI Working hours per week

In 2012, women entrepreneurs in Estonia worked on average fewer hours than men entrepreneurs, 35 hours and 40 hours, respectively. Full-time women entrepreneurs also worked fewer hours than men entrepreneurs (41 and 43 hours respectively). Part-time women entrepreneurs worked on average 18 hours, a week in Estonia, which was on par with the average for part-time women entrepreneurs in the total EU-28 (18 hours). There was a small difference in working hours between men and women part-time entrepreneurs in the Estonia. Employers have longer working weeks than did solo entrepreneurs.

figure 0.8 Average number of hours worked per week by entrepreneurs by gender in Estonia and EU-28, 2012



Source: Panteia based on Labour Force Survey Eurostat

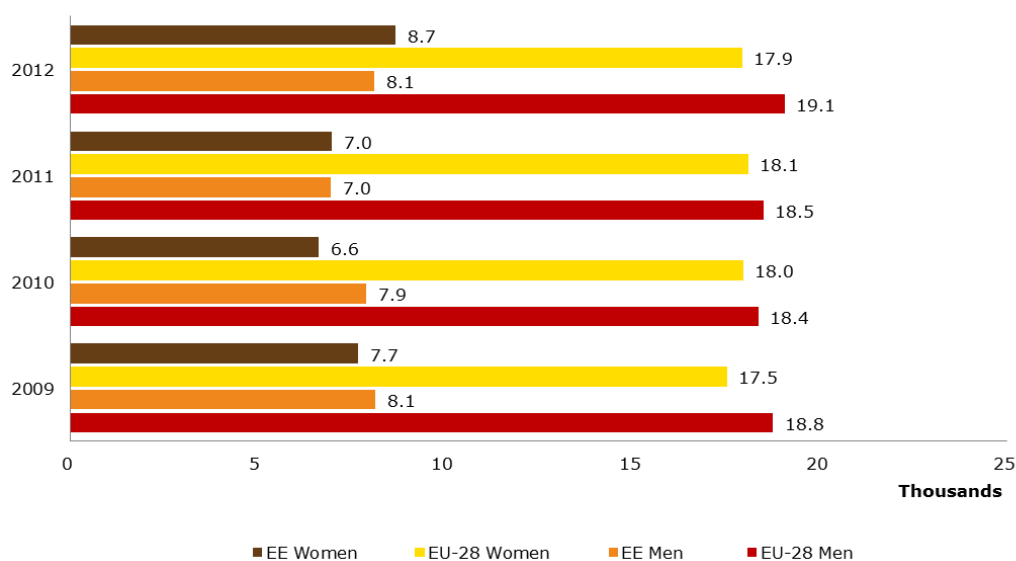
VII Characteristics of women-led enterprises and net income

No data were available on the age, size and profitability of enterprises.

In 2012, the mean net income of women entrepreneurs (€8,688) was slightly higher than that of men entrepreneurs (€8,118) in Estonia. Compared to women entrepreneurs in the EU-28 the income of Estonian women entrepreneurs was lower. In the EU-28 the mean net income of women entrepreneurs was lower than that of men entrepreneurs. The standard of living is lower in Estonia compared to the EU-28.



Figure 0.9 Mean net income entrepreneurs per year by gender in Estonia and EU-28, 2009-2012*



* including compensations of family workers

Source: Panteia, based on EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Eurostat

VIII Performance sectors with a relatively high proportion of women entrepreneurs

About 35% of all women entrepreneurs were active in the sectors trade, administrative services, arts and entertainment, and in other service activities. In the sectors which are overrepresented by women entrepreneurs, the average annual growth in value added in volumes was minus 2.3% between 2009 and 2012, which was below the average (0.7%) for the period 2004-2012. The proportion of the net operating surplus (as a proxy of gross profits) in value added was below average in 2012 (28% versus 31%).



table 0.4 Performance sectors with above average proportion of women entrepreneurs in Estonia

Industry	Proportion of women entrepreneurs per sector	Proportion of women entrepreneurs	Annual growth value added (volumes)		Proportion of net operating surplus in value added
	2012	2012	2004-2012	2009-2012	2012
Trade	17%	31%	0.9%	-2.6%	32%
Accommodation & food services	N/A	N/A	5.5%	-1.0%	16%
Education	N/A	N/A	0.7%	-0.9%	1%
Administrative services	2%	21%	5.7%	0.8%	22%
Human health and social services	N/A	N/A	1.5%	-0.2%	3%
Arts entertainment. recreation	2%	16%	-0.5%	-1.1%	14%
Other services	13%	N/A	-0.5%	-0.2%	11%
Sub total	35%	23%	0.7%	-2.3%	28%
Other sectors	65%	31%	3.5%	0.5%	31%
All sectors	100%	29%	3.0%	0.0%	31%

Source: Labour Force Survey and National Accounts Eurostat

Note:

The main source used is Eurostat

For more details see Appendix to the main report.

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This report was developed by Panteia. The project was managed by Jacqueline Snijders. The core project team consisted of Wim Verhoeven, Sophie Doove, Amber van der Graaf, Niek Timmermans, Ton Kwaak, Jacqueline Snijders and André van Stel.

