

# Career Guidance in Estonia

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Academia exchange in Estonia  
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## Republic of ESTONIA

Living in this area since 2500 B.C  
 Strategic location as a link between East and West  
 Through the ages several kings and conquerors  
 Germans, Danes, Swedes, Poles and Russians  
 By 1285, Tallinn was part of the Hanseatic League  
 In the late 19th century - nationalist movement  
 24 February 1918, Estonia declared its independence  
 forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.  
 1991 Estonians again reasserted their independence  
 Population: ~1,5 million  
 Capital City: Tallinn (~0,4 million)  
 Language: Estonian  
 Land area: 45 215 sq km



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## Background of Guidance in Estonia

- Practised since 1920s
- Strongly influenced by the political situation
- Closely related to psychology
- Gap in the systematic development between 1993 and 1998
- Revival in 1998/1999



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## Career Services

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- **Career education** – to help young people raise their self-awareness and the understanding of the opportunity structure (learning and work), and acquire skills and attitudes to enter and succeed in the modern world of work
- **Career counselling** – to support people in making and implementing informed career decisions
- **Career information** – to provide well-structured information about education, labour market and professions, and links between them

## Qualification and Training

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- **Career counsellor qualification standard** approved in 2001, up-dated in 2005 in parallel to the development of standards for **career co-ordinators at schools** and **career information specialists**; May 2006 – first occupational exam
- No **regular accredited basic training** available for career practitioners in Estonia yet
- A variety of **short and long-term courses** by further training centres, open universities, foreign experts, NRCG and within the framework of different projects
- Majority of practitioners have a **background** in psychology (youth work, teacher training, or social work)

## Structure

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## Guidance in the Education Sector

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- | <b>Part of youth work</b>  | <b>Part of formal education</b>  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Information and Counselling Centres YICC (19)</li> <li>• Open Youth Centres as a network of extended access</li> <li>• Youth information fairs, <i>Signpost, Intellektika</i> etc.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cross-curricular theme</b> <i>Professional career and its development</i></li> <li>• Class teacher tutorials</li> <li>• <b>Elective course</b> (10%)</li> <li>• Career co-ordinators at general education schools (1/3)</li> <li>• University career services</li> <li>• Teachers at VET institutions</li> </ul> |