



Mission to Estonia 4-8.03.2011 (Parliamentary Election)

Basic Information about the Country

- **Official name:** Republic of Estonia, **short form:** Estonia
- **National Day:** February 24, Independence Day (1918)
Estonia became a **NATO member state** on 29 March 2004 and an **EU member state** on 1 May 2004.

Population

The last official census was taken in 2000

- **Population:** 1,364 million
- **Population density:** 31 inhabitants per square km
- The **birth rate:** 12.0 per 1000 residents (2008)
- The **mortality rate:** 12.4 per 1000 residents (2008)
- The proportion of **urban population** : 69.4% (2008)
- The proportion of **rural population:** 30.6% (2008)
- **Largest ethnic groups:** Estonians (69%), Russians (26%), Ukrainians (2%), Belarusians (1%) and Finns (1%)

State

Type: parliamentary democracy.

Head of the State: the President, who is elected by the parliament or an electoral body (term: 5 years). Current President: Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, elected on September 23, 2006. Next elections will be held in September 2011

National legislature: the *Riigikogu* – an unicameral parliament of 101 members (term: 4 years). The last elections for the *Riigikogu* were held on March 4, 2007

Head of the Government: Prime Minister, currently Mr. Andrus Ansip (Reform Party)

Highest judicial power: Supreme Court

Administrative division: 15 counties, 33 cities and 194 rural municipalities.

Electoral systems: proportional representation.

From Estonian Embassy in Moscow Official Website

The parliamentary election will be held in Estonia on 6 March 2011, with e-voting between 24 February and 2 March 2011. 101 members of the *Riigikogu* (Parliament of Estonia) will be elected using a form of proportional representation for a four-year term (a nationwide threshold of 5%).

#	Electoral District	Seats
1.	<i>Haabersti, Põhja-Tallinn</i> and <i>Kristiine</i> districts in Tallinn	9
2.	<i>Keslinn, Lasnamäe</i> and <i>Pirita</i> districts in Tallinn	11
3.	<i>Mustamäe</i> and <i>Nõmme</i> districts in Tallinn	8
4.	<i>Harjumaa</i> (without Tallinn) and <i>Raplamaa</i> countries	14
5.	<i>Hiiumaa, Läänemaa</i> and <i>Saaremaa</i> countries	6
6.	<i>Lääne-Virumaa</i> country	5
7.	<i>Ida-Virumaa</i> country	8
8.	<i>Järvamaa</i> i <i>Viljandimaa</i> countries	8
9.	<i>Jõgevamaa</i> and <i>Tartumaa</i> countries (without Tartu)	7
10.	Tartu City	8
11.	<i>Võrumaa, Valgamaa</i> and <i>Põlvamaa</i> countries	9
12.	<i>Pärnumaa</i> country	8

From Wikipedia

Interestingly, Estonia is going to become the first country in the world where SMS voting has been conducted this year. Also, Estonia was one of the first states have started using the e-voting system. The system of voting via Internet was applied during the Parliamentary Elections in 2007 and then during the Elections to the European Parliament in 2009 in Estonia.

Useful links:

- Estonian National Electoral Committee - <http://www.vvk.ee/>
- Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en>
- Estonica – Encyclopedia about Estonia - <http://www.estonica.org/ru/>

Estonian media (*in Russian*)

- <http://rus.postimees.ee/>
- <http://rus.delfi.ee/>

* For more information about the mission and latest news of the project follow us on twitter (<http://twitter.com/eotpinfo>) and facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Election-Observation-Theory-and-Practice-Project-EOTP/183413735032654>).