

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial report of
Estonia (CRC/C/8/Add.45)

Answers to the additional questions

PART I

A. DATA and STATISTICS

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF THE UNDER-18 POPULATION

Table 1. Permanent resident population by sex and age, 2000

Age, years	Total	Males	Females
Total	1 370 052	631 851	738 201
Total in age group 0-18	332 560	170 342	162 218
0	12 308	6 317	5 991
1	11 860	6 075	5 785
2	11 847	6 146	5 701
3	12 541	6 502	6 039
4	12 799	6 521	6 278
5	13 098	6 682	6 416
6	13 860	7 099	6 761
7	16 312	8 416	7 896
8	17 130	8 702	8 428
9	19 250	9 956	9 294
10	21 331	11 004	10 327
11	21 866	11 108	10 758
12	21 969	11 315	10 654
13	21 308	10 978	10 330
14	20 991	10 651	10 340
15	21 257	10 799	10 458
16	21 544	10 970	10 574
17	20 756	10 495	10 261
18	20 533	10 606	9 927

Source: Statistical Office of Estonia. 2000 Population and Housing Census

Table 2. Population by sex and age structure by five-year age groups, 1 January 2002

Administrative unit		Total population	Total in age group 0-19	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
TOTAL	T	1 361 242	339 191	61 352	69 760	102 717	105 362
	M	627 591	173 792	31 731	35 728	52 725	53 608
	F	733 651	165 399	29 621	34 032	49 992	51 754
Cities	T	917 986	215 791	40 049	42 503	64 481	68 758
	M	412 955	110 347	20 725	21 713	33 048	34 861
	F	505 031	105 444	19 324	20 790	31 433	33 897

Rural municipalities	T	443 256	123 400	21 303	27 257	38 236	36 604
	M	214 636	63 445	11 006	14 015	19 677	18 747
	F	228 620	59 955	10 297	13 242	18 559	17 857

Source: Statistical Office of Estonia. 2002. From publication: *Population Age Structure. 1 January 2002*

Table 3. Population. By sex, citizenship and age, 31 March 2000.

Citizenship		Total population	Total in age group 0-18	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-18
Total	T	1 370 052	332 560	61 355	79 650	107 465	84 090
<i>One citizenship</i>	T	1 190 542	290 304	55 511	71 105	91 738	71 950
<i>Estonian</i>	M	496024	143 752	27 891	35 508	45 189	35 164
<i>Estonian</i>	F	599533	137 361	26 421	33 818	43 145	33 977
<i>Russian</i>	M	40998	4 201	523	789	1 558	1 331
<i>Russian</i>	F	45061	3 907	468	756	1 485	1 198
<i>Latvian</i>	M	691	130	21	35	45	29
<i>Latvian</i>	F	721	134	24	32	41	37
<i>Lithuanian</i>	M	591	58	6	14	20	18
<i>Lithuanian</i>	F	514	52	5	14	19	14
<i>Byelorussia</i>	M	721	44	2	10	13	19
<i>Byelorussia</i>	F	714	46	5	6	18	17
<i>Ukrainian</i>	M	1519	181	28	32	70	51
<i>Ukrainian</i>	F	1345	182	24	22	79	57
<i>Finnish</i>	M	570	42	11	9	13	9
<i>Finnish</i>	F	356	40	18	11	8	3
<i>Other</i>	T	1184	174	64	49	35	26
<i>Two citizenships</i>	T	209	81	41	17	16	7
<i>Undetermined¹</i>	M	85 153	20 436	2 649	4 125	7 727	5 935
<i>Undetermined</i>	F	85 196	19 159	2 481	3 789	7 245	5644
<i>Unknown</i>	M	4 762	1 377	375	306	397	299
<i>Unknown</i>	F	4 190	1 203	298	308	342	255

Source: Statistical Office of Estonia. 2000 *Population and Housing Census*

Estonian citizens make up 84.5 % of the under-18 population; Russian citizens make up 2.4 % and persons whose citizenship is undetermined make up 11.9 % of the under-18 population.

Symbols: T- total M – males F – females

¹Undetermined” was recorded for the persons who had an “aliens passport”, also for the persons who asserted that they had not received the document and did not know their citizenship. Definition from Statistical Office of Estonia. 2000. Publication: *Population and Housing Census II*. According to the Identity Documents Act an aliens passport may also be given to the person who is a citizen of another country - in other words not all persons, who have “aliens passport” are stateless persons.

2. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND SPENDING FOR SOCIAL NEEDS, AS % OF TOTAL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES:

2.1 Table 4: Expenditures from the State and local government budgets to education
(questions 2 a, c and e)

Millions of EEK	2000 budget	2000 Percentage from the budget	2001 budget	2001 Percentage from the budget	2002 ² budget	2002 Percentage from the budget
State Budget	28 531	100%	29 786	100%	34 329	100%
Additional training for kindergartens	7,6	0,03%	7,5	0,03%	7,4	0,02%
Teachers salaries, additional training, teaching materials, maintenance costs (in the case of state schools)						
Municipal schools	1 210,2	4,24%	1 398,1	4,69%	1 598,1	4,66%
State schools	181,2	0,64%	175,1	0,59%	186,0	0,54%
In total	1 391,4	4,88%	1 573,2	5,28%	1 784,1	5,20%
Investments to general education (schools only)	160	0,56%	162	0,54%	177	0,52%
Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation						
County juvenile boards	5,0		4,3		3,0	
County consultation boards	1,5		1,0		1,0	
In total	6,5	0,02%	5,3	0,02%	4,0	0,01%
Local Government budgets	7 922,0	100%	9 527,5	100%	9 452,6	100%
Kindergartens	841,3	11%	901,7	9%	1 018,7	11%
General education schools	1 200,7	15%	1 320,7	14%	871,1	9%
Investments to education and culture	230,0	3%	318,3	3%	394	4%

Table 5: Expenditures from the State budget for children in 2001 (in EEK/ EUR 15.677/1):

Health (incl. Vaccinations, adolescent health, prevention activities)	39 200 000
Child protection	94 736 200
Child benefits, child care allowances	1 348 380 000
Children with disabilities (incl. social support benefits, special schools)	281 298 000
State health care programmes	11 440 000
State social welfare programmes	6 500 000
Support to the Union of Families with Many Children	1 000 000
Youth cultural programmes	1 135 300
Integration programme	8 000 000

² In the case of local governments estimated numbers for 2002 are given, final amounts are known after the end of 2002 when annual reports are drafted

Expenditures on youth sport	26 000 000
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Total expenditure for children from state budget: 1 817 689 500 6.1%³
Total expenditures from state budget: 29 786 050 000 100%

Source: Law on State Budget 2001; Health Insurance Budget 2001; Ministry of Finance

2.2 Table 6: Expenditures from the State budget for children in 2002 (in EEK/ EUR 15,677/1):

Health (incl. vaccinations, adolescent health, prevention activities, dental health)	109 250 000
Child protection	111 757 100
Child benefits, child care allowances	1 402 000 000
Children with disabilities (incl. social support benefits, special schools)	228 120 000
State health care programmes	16 067 000
State welfare programmes	6 436 000
Support to the Union of Families with Many Children	1 000 000
International co-operation projects connected with children (youth employment and health promotion)	2 500 000
Support to the project "Milk for Pupils"	14 100 000
Integration programme	8 500 000
Expenditures on youth sport	25 500 000

Total expenditure for children from state budget 1 925 230 100 5,8 %⁴
Total expenditures from state budget: 33 130 693 000 100%

Source: Law on State Budget 2002; Health Insurance Budget 2002; Ministry of Finance

3. FOR CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND SEPARATED FROM PARENTS, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT ARE:

a) separated from their parents:

Table 7: The number of children separated from their families by court judgment

Year	Total	0-2	3-6	7-14	15-18
1998	81	7	18	45	11
1999	79	2	25	44	8
2000	101	16	17	49	19
2001	110	19	18	61	12

³ Not included: educational expenditures (also day-care services) and expenditures for juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation

⁴ Not included: educational expenditures (also day-care services) and expenditures for juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Table 8: Children without parental care registered for the first time (2000, 2001)

Year	2000	2001
Boys	659	703
Girls	568	552
All children (boys and girls)	1227	1255
Children with temporary residence permit	164	279

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

b) Placed in institutions and foster care

Of the 443 children who had not been placed in institutions or foster care by the end of 1999 and the 1227 children registered during 2000, 1305 children without parental care were placed during the accounting year.

Table 9: Placement of children without parental care, by location of placement, 2000

Foster families	597 children	45.8%
Returned to biological families	320 children	24.5%
Shelters	231 children	17.7%
Child welfare institutions	157 children	12.0%

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Of the 364 children who had not been placed in institutions or foster care by the beginning of 2001 and the 1225 children registered during 2001, 1288 children without parental care were placed during the accounting year.

Table 10: Placement of children without parental care, by location of placement, 2001

Foster families	455 children	35.3%
Returned to biological families	411 children	31.9%
Shelters	220 children	17.1%
Child welfare institutions	202 children	15.7%

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Thus 70.3% of children without parental care were placed in families in 2000; in 2001 the corresponding indicator was 67.2%.

4. THE NET ENROLMENT RATIO AND COMPLETION RATES IN PERCENTAGES IN:

Table 11: enrolment ratio for kindergarten in 1999-2000 (in per cents)

Age	1999	1999	1999	2000	2000	2000
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
1	11,0	11,4	10,7	13,1	13,6	12,6
2	48,0	47,8	48,2	50,2	49,4	51,2

3	69,7	69,3	70,2	74,3	73,7	75,0
4	76,5	76,5	76,5	78,8	78,7	78,9
5	78,8	78,7	78,9	82,6	83,7	81,4
6	78,9	79,3	78,4	81,8	82,8	80,8
7	16,9	18,8	15,0	16,5	18,1	14,1

Table 12: enrolment ratio for kindergarten in 2001 (in per cents)

Age	Total	Boys	Girls
1	12,5	12,4	12,5
2	52,5	52,5	52,5
3	74,6	73,7	75,6
4	79,8	79,3	80,3
5	82,8	83,1	82,5
6	83,3	83,8	82,8
7	16,9	18,7	14,9

Table 13: Repetitions, graduates and drop-outs by gender and level of education (except for students with special needs)

Level of education	1998/1999	Students	Graduates	Repetitions	Drop-outs
Primary (1-6)	Total	123 240	97,0%	2,5%	0,1%
	Tuition in Estonian	89 334	96,8%	2,8%	0,1%
	Tuition in Russian	33 896	97,6%	1,5%	0,2%
Elementary (7-9)	Total	56 673	92,2%	6,2%	1,1%
	Tuition in Estonian	37 610	91,0%	7,1%	1,2%
	Tuition in Russian	19 063	94,5%	4,3%	0,8%
Intermediate (10-12)	Total	32 027	93,7%	1,3%	2,5%
	Tuition in Estonian	22 740	92,7%	1,7%	2,8%
	Tuition in Russian	9 287	96,1%	0,5%	1,8%
1999/2000					
Primary (1-6)	Total	119 980	97,1%	2,2%	0,1%
	Tuition in Estonian	89 164	97,0%	2,5%	0,1%
	Tuition in Russian	30 816	97,4%	1,4%	0,1%
Elementary (7-9)	Total	57 877	91,6%	6,6%	1,2%
	Tuition in Estonian	38 678	90,4%	4,4%	1,3%
	Tuition in Russian	19 199	93,9%	11,0%	0,9%
Intermediate (10-12)	Total	32 288	92,8%	1,4%	2,7%
	Tuition in Estonian	22 706	91,8%	1,7%	3,0%
	Tuition in Russian	9 582	95,1%	0,6%	1,9%
2000/2001					
Primary (1-6)	Total	113 826	97,3%	2,1%	0,1%
	Tuition in Estonian	86 470	97,1%	2,3%	0,1%
	Tuition in Russian	27 356	98,0%	1,4%	0,1%
Elementary (7-9)	Total	59 739	92,5%	5,5%	1,2%
	Tuition in Estonian	40 824	91,6%	6,3%	1,3%
	Tuition in Russian	18 915	94,5%	3,8%	1,2%
Intermediate (10-12)	Total	32 832	93,7%	1,4%	2,3%
	Tuition in Estonian	22 882	93,1%	1,5%	2,4%
	Tuition in Russian	9 950	95,0%	1,0%	2,1%

Table 14: Students of vocational education in Estonia during 1998/1999 – 2000/2001⁵
(without higher professional courses)

Total (Estonian + Russian)				Language of instruction: Russian		
Ac.year 1998/1999	females	males	total	females	males	Total
No. of students	14 688	16 502	31 190	4 083	5 866	9 949
Discontinued	1 714	2 265	3 979	437	762	1 199
%of discontinued	11,7%	13,7%	12,8%	10,7%	13,0%	12,1%
Graduated	4 405	4 137	8 542	1 153	1 523	2 676
% of graduated	30,0%	25,1%	27,4%	28,2%	26,0%	26,9%
Ac.year 1999/2000	females	males	total	females	males	Total
No. of students	14 626	16 521	31 147	4 496	6 214	10 710
Discontinued	1 856	2 445	4 301	667	981	1 648
%of discontinued	12,7%	14,8%	13,8%	14,8%	15,8%	15,4%
Graduated	4 495	4 071	8 566	1 232	1 583	2 815
% of graduated	30,7%	24,6%	27,5%	27,4%	25,5%	26,3%
Ac.year 2000/2001	females	males	total	females	males	Total
No. of students	14 114	16 758	30 872	4 799	6 451	11 250
Discontinued	1 996	2 849	4 845	872	1249	2 121
%of discontinued	14,1%	17,0%	15,7%	18,2%	19,4%	18,9%
Graduated	4 544	4 409	8 953	1 420	1 750	3 170
% of graduated	32,2%	26,3%	29,0%	29,6%	27,1%	28,2%

5. DATA ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH, INCL. EARLY PREGNANCY, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STD-S), HIV/ AIDS, MENTAL HEALTH, SUICIDES AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

5.1 Data on HIV/ AIDS, 2001 and 2002

Table 15: Persons diagnosed as HIV positive during 2001, by gender and age

Age group	0-1	10-14	15-19
Males	-	24	351
Females	3	7	177
Total	3	31	528

Source: Health Protection Inspectorate

Table 16: Persons diagnosed as HIV positive during 2002, by gender and age (first ten months)

Age group	0-1	10-14	15-19
Males	1	2	159
Females	1	2	103
Total	2	4	262

⁵ Explanation for the data: the low percentage of graduates does not mean that the rest didn't graduate at all. The "no. of students" shows the whole number of students at the second level vocational education, which consists of students of all years (1-5 years of study). The number and the % below shows the number of students who graduated or discontinued in this concrete academic year, so the rest simply continue their courses next year or spend their academic vacation.

Source: Health Protection Inspectorate

According to the Estonian Health Protection Inspectorate, there were 989 HIV-positive persons under the age of 19 (inclusive) living in Estonia in 2002.

5.2 Data on sexually transmitted diseases, 2000 and 2001

Table 17: The number of registered first cases of main sexually transmitted diseases among 0- to 19-year-old persons, by gender and age, 2000

Disease	RHK - 10 code	Sex	Total Age group			
			0-4	5-9	9-14	15-19
Syphilis	A50- A53	M	12	2		9
		F	64	1	2	61
Gonococcal infection	A54	M	49			49
		F	53			53
Venereal chlamydia lymphogranuloma	A55	M	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-
Other sexually transmitted chlamydia diseases	A56	M	69			69
		F	437		2	435
Cancroid	A57	M	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-
Trichomoniasis	A59	M	71	1		70
		F	249		1	247
Anogenital herpes virus infections	A60	M	7			7
		F	42		1	41

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Table 18: The number of registered first cases of main sexually transmitted diseases among 0- to 19-year-old persons, by gender and age, 2001

Disease	RHK - 10 code	Sex	Total Age group				
			Total	Age group			
				0-4	5-9	9-14	15-19
Syphilis	A50- A53	M	11	3		8	
		F	33	2		31	
Gonococcal infection	A54	M	27			27	
		F	54		1	51	
Venereal chlamydia lymphogranuloma	A55	M	-	-	-	-	
		F	-	-	-	-	
Other sexually transmitted chlamydia diseases	A56	M	97			97	
		F	438		2	436	
Cancroid	A57	M	-	-	-	-	
		F	-	-	-	-	
Trichomoniasis	A59	M	72			72	

		F	232			6	226
Anogenital herpes virus infections	A60	M	10				10
		F	48				48

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

5.3 Data on early pregnancies, 2000

Table 19: Childbearers by age, 2000

Woman's age	All childbearers		including first-time childbearers	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total (up to age 49)	12983	100.0	6301	100.0
up to 14 yrs. old	4	0.0	4	0.1
15 yrs. old	23	0.2	23	0.4
16 yrs. old	97	0.7	94	1.5
17 yrs. old	225	1.7	220	3.5
18 yrs. old	376	2.9	352	5.6

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs; Estonian Medical Birth Register

5.4 Data on adolescent mental health, 2001

Table 20: Mental and behavioural disorders. New mental cases among persons between the ages of 0 and 19, in 2001

Mental and behavioural disorders	RHK-10 code	Sex	Age group				
			0-11 months, 29 days	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
Total	F00-F98	M	1	328	1358	1845	1 238
		F	0	184	731	833	1 087
Organic – including symptomatic – mental disorders	F00-F09	M	1	6	24	43	61
		F	0	0	11	18	19
Mental and behavioural disorders caused by the use of psychoactive substances	F10-F19	M	0	0	0	14	253
		F	0	0	0	9	104
Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusionary disorders	F20-F29	M	0	0	0	7	18
		F	0	0	1	5	15
Mood disorders	F30-F39	M	0	2	18	92	113
		F	0	0	18	75	221

Neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders	F40-F49	M	0	36	170	371	283
		F	0	33	127	214	441
Mental and behavioural disorders with physiological dysfunction	F50-F59	M	0	12	21	20	50
		F	0	9	10	14	96
Adult personality and behavioural disorders	F60-F69	M	0	0	0	2	44
		F	0	0	1	1	21
Mental retardation	F70-F79	M	0	18	98	143	150
		F	0	13	71	78	59
Disorders of psychological development	F80-F89	M	0	162	508	540	92
		F	0	79	305	236	26
Behavioural and emotional disorders that usually begin in childhood	F90-F98	M	0	92	519	613	174
		F	0	50	187	183	85

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

5.5 Data on suicides 1999, 2000, 2001

Table 21: Suicides 1999 – 2001. Total in Estonia, the number of suicides and mortality rate per 100 000 inhabitants)

Year	Sex		Total	Age group	
				10-14	15-19
2001	Total	Number	401	4	14
		Coefficient	29.4	3.8	13.3
	M	Number	315	4	12
		Coefficient	50.1	7.5	22.4
	F	Number	86	0	2
		Coefficient	11.7	0.0	3.9
2000	Total	Number	379	1	18
		Coefficient	27.7	0.9	17.3
	M	Number	291	0	13
		Coefficient	46.1	0.0	24.5
	F	Number	88	1	5
		Coefficient	11.9	1.9	9.8
1999	Total	Number	469	2	25
		Coefficient	32.5	1.8	23.4
	M	Number	376	2	19
		Coefficient	56.0	3.5	35.0

F	Number	93	0	6
	Coefficient	12.1	0.0	11.4

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

5.6 Data on drug and alcohol abuse

The international study 'Health Behaviour in School-aged Children in Estonia', in which young people's use of alcohol and narcotics was investigated, was performed in 2002. At present the results of the above-mentioned study being processed, and will be presented once they become known (in roughly December 2002 / January 2003).

6. With references to child abuse

Table 22: The number of individual complaints received

Type of abuse (article of Criminal Code)	2000	2001
Rape of a minor (§ 115 (2) 3))	27	12
Rape of a child (§ 115 (3) 2))	5	3
Satisfaction of sexual desire in unnatural manner by violence or threat of violence or by taking advantage of the helpless situation of the victim, if it is knowingly committed against a person under the age of 16 (§ 115 ¹ (2))	55	47
Sexual intercourse with female under age of 14 (§ 116)	2	1
Indecent sexual acts towards person under age of 16 (§ 117)	22	95
An act of pederasty knowingly committed with a person under the age of 16 (§ 118 (2))	3	5
Total:	114	163

Source: Police Board

Table 23: Cases of child abuse detected by the police, in which proceedings were continued on the basis of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Type of abuse (article of Criminal Code)	2000	%	2001	%
Rape of a minor (§ 115 (2) 3))	22	81.4%	7	58.3%
Rape of a child (§ 115 (3) 2))	5	100%	3	100%
Satisfaction of sexual desire in unnatural manner by violence or threat of violence or by taking advantage of the helpless situation of the victim, if it is knowingly committed against a person under the age of 16 (§ 115 ¹ (2))	38	69%	44	93.6%
Sexual intercourse with female under age of 14 (§ 116)	0	0%	1	100%
Indecent sexual acts towards person	12	54.5%	84	88.4%

under age of 16 (§ 117)				
An act of pederasty knowingly committed with a person under the age of 16 (§ 118 (2))	0	0%	4	80%
Total:	77	67.5%	143	87.7%

Source: Police Board

7. Children with disabilities

As of the end of 2000, the Statistical Office reported that there were 4409 disabled children below the age of 16 in Estonia, and as of the end of 2001 there were 4722 disabled children below the age of 16.

Table 24: The number of children with disabilities that are living in institutions, 2000

Sex	Age				Total
	0-2	3-6	7-14	15-17	
M	22	70	312	139	543
F	21	36	169	91	317
Total	43	106	481	230	860

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Table 25: The number of children with disabilities that are living in institutions, 2001

Sex	Age				Total
	0-2	3-6	7-14	15-17	
M	23	48	313	159	543
F	10	31	191	98	330
Total	33	79	504	257	873

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs

Table 26: The number of disabled students attending regular schools and attending special schools

Type of school	2001/2002 school year
School for special needs children and special class in regular school	3.4% ⁶
Regular school (completely integrated)	12.5% ⁴

Source: Ministry of Education

8. The number of street children

⁶ of total number of students

As a result of a roundtable on the topic of street children organised by the Open Estonia Foundation in 1999 the estimated situation is as follows: there are about 4000-5000 children in the streets in Estonia. The number includes also children who are evading the obligation to attend school and children deprived of parental care. Speaking about "street children" as children who have no home and who live "in the streets", the number would be approximately 10-100. More problematic regions are Tallinn, Tartu, and Ida-Virumaa (in the latter case, more exactly the city of Narva).

9. The number of children between 13-15 years of age, who are working

According to article 2, subsection 2 of the Estonian Employment Contracts Act (RT I 1992, 15/16, 241; RT I 2002, 61, 375) in exceptional cases, an employee may be:

- 1) a minor who has attained fifteen years of age, with the written consent of one parent or a curator, if the work does not endanger the health, morality or education of the minor and is not prohibited to minors by law or a collective agreement;
- 2) a minor of thirteen to fifteen years of age, with the written consent of one parent or a guardian and the labour inspector of the location (residence) of the employer, for work set out in a list approved by the Government of the Republic, if the work does not endanger the health, morality or education of the minor and is not prohibited to minors by a collective agreement.

According to the Labour Inspectorate, 186 minors between the ages of 13 and 15 were employed in 2001. In the first 9 months of 2002, permission has been granted for the employment of 212 minors between the ages of 13 and 15.

Pursuant to article 2 of the draft new Employment Contracts Act, it is prohibited for minors under the age of 15 to be employed, other than in exceptional cases, which are directly defined in the act. Over 15-year-old minors may work, if they have the permission of one parent or guardian and if such work does not harm the child's health, morals or the acquisition of education. Under the Employment Contracts Act that is presently in effect, the Government of the Republic has established a list of fields of employment that are permitted for minors. In accordance with the new Employment Contracts Act, the Government of the Republic will establish a list of fields in which minors are prohibited to work.

10. THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED A CRIME, WERE SENTENCED BY COURTS AND RECIDIVISM

10.1 The number of children who allegedly committed a crime which was reported to the police

There is data about offences committed by minors (under 18 years of age) accused of offences and about persons accused of offences. The number of the accused is available for 2000 and 2001, the data on recidivism is available for nine months of 2002.

Offences cleared by the police that have been committed by minors (25-30% of offences are cleared, there is no data about the persons committing the remaining offences).

In 2000 - 2301

In 2001 - 2206

In 2002 (9 months) - 1702 (incl. 1691 on the basis of the Criminal Code; 11 on the basis of the Penal Code that came into force on 1 Sept 2002)

Table 27: The number of minors who were charged with committing an offence

	Age	Total	Sex		Nationality		Citizenship		
			Man	Woman	Estonian	Other	Estonian	Foreign citizen	Stateless
2000	up to 15	645	558	87	385	260	463	11	171
	16-17	1275	1176	99	626	649	826	37	412
2001	up to 15	739	646	93	459	280	551	13	175
	16-17	1329	1205	124	709	620	936	37	356

10.2 The number of children who were sentenced by courts to sanctions, and the nature of the sanctions imposed

In the year 2000, 1617 juvenile offenders, i.e. 15.8 per cent of the total number of offenders, were convicted of crime by Estonian courts of 1st instance. The corresponding percentage for previous year has been 17.4. 8.7 per cent of all juvenile offenders, i.e. 140, were women. The division of juvenile offenders by nationality: Estonians – 1108 persons, i.e. 68.5%; Russians – 47 persons, i.e. 2.9%; Other nationalities – 5 persons, i.e. 0.3%, and Stateless persons – 457 persons, i.e. 28.3%.

In the year 2001, 1579 juvenile offenders, i.e. 14.0 per cent of the total number of offenders, were convicted of crime by Estonian courts of 1st instance. 9.9 per cent of all juvenile offenders, i.e. 157, were women. The division of the juvenile offenders in 2001 by nationality: Estonians – 1147 persons, i.e. 72.6%; Russians – 35 persons, i.e. 2.2%; Other nationalities – 6 persons, i.e. 0.3%, and Stateless persons – 397 persons, i.e. 25.1%.

Table 28: Sentencing of juveniles in years 1999 to 2001

Type of Sentence	Persons, 2001	%	Persons, 2000	%	Persons, 1999	%
Conditional imprisonment	999	63.3	1020	63.1	1048	68.4
Imprisonment	305	19.3	297	18.4	256	16.7
Fine	143	9.1	193	11.9	168	10.9
Sentence not executed	59	3.7	44	2.7	25	1.6
Arrest	72	4.6	62	3.8	35	2.3

10.3 The number of suspended sentences

2000 – 1020; 2001 – 999; 2002 n/a;

Under criminal probation 2000 – 744 (10,4% of them female); 2001 – 811 (11,2% of them female); 2002 – 807 (9,9% female; 36,5% Russians)

10.4. The periods of imprisonment and recidivism

There are 2 prisons for minors: one in Viljandi (for the convicted) and one in Maardu (for the pre-trial detention). The Harku prison for women has special department for minors and also a special department for the female prisoners with children. These are rather small institutions and the number of children varies from 70 to 100. All the social, educational and medical needs are secured. The segregation is implemented on the basis of individual and physiological criteria.

Table 29: The number of children serving a prison sentence by age and sex

	On 01.01.2000			On 01.01.2001			On 01.01.2002		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
aged 13				1		1			
aged 14							1		1
aged 15	3	1	4	4		4	7		7
aged 16	14		14	19	1	20	26	1	27
aged 17	34	1	35	39	1	40	32	1	33
Total	51	2	53	63	2	65	66	2	68

Nationality, length of imprisonment and recidivism can be established on the basis of the statistics of Viljandi Prison (minors + young prisoners, aged 13 – 21):

Table 30: Nationality of youth serving a prison sentence

	On 01.01.2000	On 01.01.2001	On 01.01.2002
Estonians	22	29	31
Russians	35	43	49
Ukrainians	1		
Belarusians			
Caucasian nationalities			
Central-Asian nationalities	1	1	
Nordic and European nationalities	3	2	1
Total	62	75	81

Table 31: Term of punishment of youth serving a prison sentence

	On 01.01.2000	On 01.01.2001	On 01.01.2002
Up to 1 year	7	12	15
1-2-years	19	29	29
2-3 years	9	7	9
3-4 years	9	7	10
4-5 years	7	3	4
5 – 10 years	11	17	14
Total	62	75	81

Table 32: Recidivism among youth serving a prison sentence

	On 01.01.2000	On 01.01.2001	On 01.01.2002
First time	58	70	73
Second time	4	5	8
Third time or more			
Total	62	75	81

B. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Inter - sectoral co-ordination and co-operation on child rights at the central governmental level, as well as between the central and local levels of government

2.1.1 Inter - sectoral co-ordination and co-operation on child rights at the central governmental level

Co-operation between different ministries and government institutions takes place on a regular basis during the legislative process. Issues of child protection, as well as draft legislation concerning other matters, undergo the stage of inter-ministry co-ordination after the preparation of the draft legislation and before it is sent to the Government of the Republic and the Parliament. Before draft legislation is presented to the Government it must be co-ordinated with all ministries to which obligations are assigned in the draft legislation, or whose area of government the draft legislation concerns. Draft legislation may also be sent to other state institutions or organisations in order to obtain their opinion. All draft Acts shall be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice. It is the task of co-ordination to analyse the consequences of the implementation of the draft legislation and its influence in various areas.

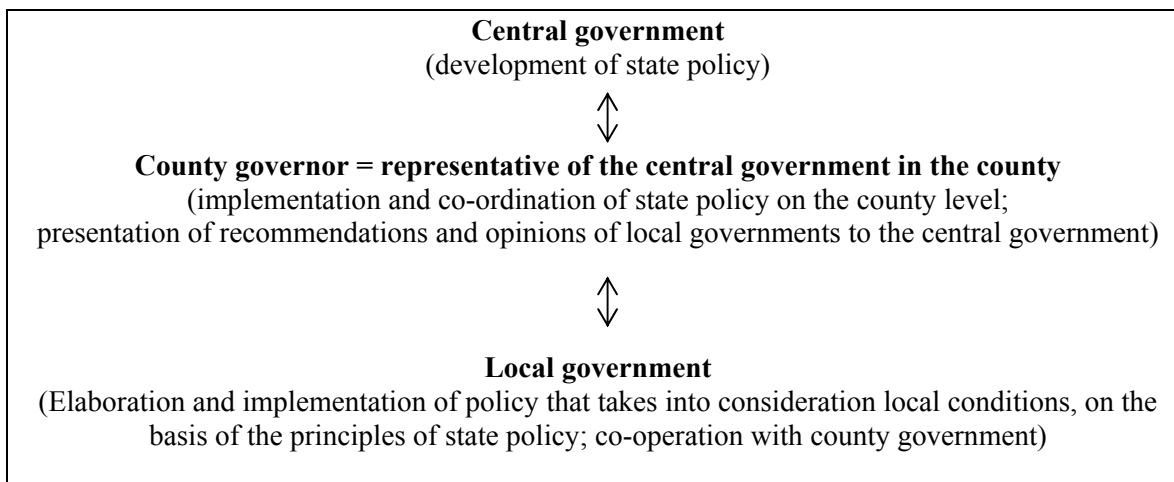
In addition to regular co-operation during the legislative process, a permanent government commission for child and family issues has also been created; its membership consists of representatives of various ministries, county governments, the Parliament, local governments, universities and third sector. The above-mentioned commission also includes the Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister for Population and Ethnic Affairs. The task of the Council on Child and Family Policy includes questions of legislation concerning child and family policy and also implementation and commissioning of corresponding research.

Temporary working groups consisting of representatives of various ministries are formed in order to discuss child protection issues.

2.1.2 Inter-sectoral co-ordination and co-operation on child rights between the central and local levels of government

The Estonian state is divided into 15 counties and 247 local government units, of which 42 are cities and 205 parishes. On the state level, child protection policy is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. County governors are the central government's representatives in each county, ensuring and co-ordinating the implementation of central state policy on the territory of the corresponding county. Local governments and county governments co-operate closely. The county governor presents recommendations and opinions of local governments to the central government.

According to the Social Welfare Act, the Ministry of Social Affairs shall elaborate the country's overall social welfare policy (article 6), and county governments shall elaborate county welfare policy on the basis of the state social welfare policy (article 7). Local governments are required to prepare a local social welfare development plan, taking into consideration state and county social welfare policy (article 8). Continuous mutual co-ordination and discussion takes place during the above-mentioned process, in order to guarantee that the developed policies are harmonised and can be implemented.



2.2 Receiving and addressing complaints of violations of the child rights

Children and their representatives can submit petitions concerning the violation of a child's rights, both through legal proceedings and through opportunities that have been created outside the framework of legal proceedings.

2.2.1 Right of recourse to the courts in the event of the violation of the rights of the child

In accordance with § 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, everyone whose rights and freedoms are violated has the right of recourse to the courts. As a result, there is also a fundamental right to recourse to the courts in the event of the violation of the rights of the child. Depending on the nature of violation, it is possible to initiate civil, administrative or criminal proceedings.

Persons under 18 years of age are generally represented in court by their legal representative (who also submits the complaint) – parent, guardian, local government body (pursuant to § 71 (3) – (6); § 84 (1) of the Code of Civil Procedure; § 5 of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure). In certain situations local government bodies are, in the interests of protecting a child, also entitled to submit a complaint in place of a parent, especially in situations where the parent's interests may be in conflict with those of the child. Local government bodies have the right to apply for a child's separation from his/her family and the deprivation of parental rights, if a parent severely violates in various ways the child's rights (treats the child cruelly, abuses parental rights) and it is harmful for the child to remain with his/her parent (article 54 of the Family Act).

In accordance with § 71 of the Code of Civil Procedure, state and local government agencies are authorised, by request of a court, but also on their own initiative, to present their opinion in court cases concerning the public interest, including matters pertaining to children, in order to ensure that the interests of the minor be protected to the greatest extent possible.

In accordance with the codes of civil, administrative and criminal procedure, court proceedings are public. Pursuant to § 8 (3) of the Code of Civil Procedure, § 19 (4) of the Code of Administrative Procedure and § 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a court may declare its sessions or part thereof to be held in camera, in order to maintain the confidentiality of adoption, as well as in the general interests of a minor. Compliance with court rulings that have entered into force is compulsory for all state and local government institutions and the parties to the proceedings.

2.2.2 Filing of petition with Legal Chancellor concerning violation of the rights of the child

The Legal Chancellor is an independent official who reviews the legislation of the legislative and executive powers and of local governments for conformity with the Constitution and laws (Article 139 of the Constitution). The Legal Chancellor analyses proposals made to him/her concerning the amendment of laws, the passage of new laws and the activities of state agencies, and if necessary presents a report to the Parliament.

According to the Legal Chancellor Act adopted in 1999, the Legal Chancellor performs the functions of an ombudsman. Everyone has the right, either in person or through a representative, to file a petition with the Legal Chancellor against the activities of officials of state agencies or local governments upon violation of the constitutional rights or freedoms of the person. Legal Chancellor has offices in Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu and Jõhvi.

The Legal Chancellor will commence proceedings to control the activities of a state agency on the basis of a petition filed with him, or on his own initiative on the basis of information obtained beforehand if there is a good reason to believe that constitutional rights have been violated. Special attention is paid to accusations against the police, prosecutor's office, prisons, customs authorities, border guard or the Citizenship and Migration Board or other state agencies. The Legal Chancellor pays close attention to the concerns of persons who cannot themselves sufficiently stand for their rights or whose freedom is limited. These are children, persons in care homes and psychiatric hospitals, prisoners, conscripts.

During the procedure the Legal Chancellor has the right to demand information necessary for the performance of his duties. All the state agencies and local governments are required to release the necessary information to the Legal Chancellor within the term specified by him. The Legal Chancellor may also demand that an agency provide a written explanation concerning a petition.

The Legal Chancellor informs a person within one month of which operations he has performed or considers necessary to perform in connection with the petition or complaint.

In order to eradicate the shortcomings discovered during the inspection of a government agency, the Legal Chancellor shall present a corresponding proposal. The agency to which the recommendation is made must inform the Legal Chancellor how the proposal has been implemented. The Legal Chancellor is entitled to make inquiries concerning compliance with his proposals. The agency to which an inquiry is addressed is required to answer not later than ten days after receipt of the inquiry.

2.2.3 Filing of complaints to superior or administrative body concerning violation of the rights of the child

According to the Administrative Procedure Act, a person who finds that his or her rights were violated or his or her freedoms were restricted may submit a complaint to the administrative authority exercising supervisory control over the lower administrative authority or to special administrative authority established for that purpose under the law.

An administrative authority reviewing the complaint must adjudicate the case within ten days, and if the case is complicated, within 30 days. In adjudicating a case, the administrative body shall gather evidence and hear the explanations of interested persons and experts. Finally the administrative body shall make a decision whether the

administrative act or measure upon which the complaint was filed is lawful and purposeful.

If a person is not in agreement with the decision of the superior administrative body or special administrative body, an action may be filed with an administrative court.

2.3 The collection and analysis of disaggregated data in order to design and evaluate policies and programmes affecting all persons under 18 years

Pursuant to § 4 (2) of the Official Statistics Act, the main organiser and co-ordinator of statistical surveys in Estonia is the Estonian Statistical Office, or/and the Bank of Estonia in the case of specific economic and financial statistics. Official statistics reflect the condition of the Estonian economy, population, social sphere and the changes taking place therein, including statistics on the situation of the children.

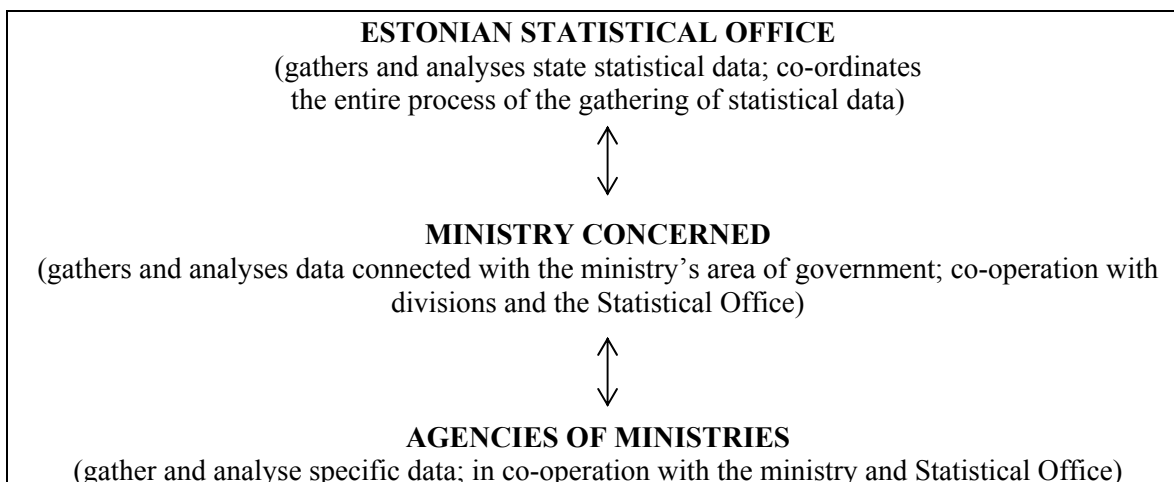
The population and social statistics service of the Estonian Statistical Office gathers general data about situation of the children (demographic data; educational data; data concerning child welfare and cultural activity, etc.). The Statistical Office is a government agency that operates in the area of government of the Ministry of Finance. The Statistical Office operates on the basis of statutes, and organises various surveys of state statistics in accordance with a list established annually by the Government of the Republic. The Statistical Office publishes the results of the surveys on a regular basis (annually in the case of most surveys), both in annual yearbook and in the Internet. These are used by all ministries, local governments, but also by the private sector in the development of new programmes and policies and also in the assessment and possible alteration of existing ones. The data published by the Statistical Office also serve as the basis for the development of annual state budget and local government budgets.

In addition to the Statistical Office, various ministries and government agencies also gather specific data on the situation of the children. The Statistical Office co-ordinates and provides assistance and guidance to other government agencies and local governments in matters concerning statistics.

The co-ordinating role of the Statistical Office has diminished the duplication of gathering of statistical data to minimum.

Specific statistical data concerning the situation of children are gathered and analysed primarily by corresponding ministries, under the co-ordination of the Statistical Office. Ministries gather and analyse statistics in the particular ministry's area of activity, which permits the continuous improvement and alteration of the ministry's perspective policy and activity plans in accordance with the changes in the factual situation.

The Ministry of Justice gathers and analyses statistics concerning juvenile offenders and their situation. The Ministry of Education organises the gathering and analysis of educational statistics. The Ministry of Social Affairs has a statistics and analysis department that gathers and analyses data concerning children receiving social benefits and services. On the basis of data gathered by the agencies of the Ministry of Social Affairs (the Health Protection Inspectorate, Labour Inspectorate, Social Insurance Board), the Statistics and Analysis Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs prepares a synopsis of the situation of the children in the areas of health, social insurance and work



In addition to the regular gathering of the above-mentioned general statistical information, ministries also use and order analyses of the situation of the children from the third sector and academic research establishments in the elaboration and alteration of child protection policy.

In 2002 the Office of the Minister for Population and Ethnic Affairs performed a survey to analyse how local governments promote the interests of children and families with children.

The surveys of school violence performed in co-operation with the Estonian Union for Child Welfare and Tartu University have already been carried out in two successive years – in 2001 the number of respondents was 2255, and in 2002 there were 1764 respondents among the children. The Estonian Union for Child Welfare also performs several other surveys of children's situation, which various ministries use in the formation of their activity plans.

In addition to surveys by the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, research performed by students and academics of Tartu University and Tallinn Pedagogical University can be mentioned: "The social subsistence of families with disabled children in Tartu"; "Sexual abuse of children in Estonia"; "The awareness and realisation of the rights of the child"; "Youth unemployment: reasons and potential solutions"; "Youth sexual behaviour and knowledge as the source of reproductive health risks"; "Opportunities for social work in schools" etc. Many of the results of these surveys are used in the development of new policies and development plans.

In order to determine whether the existing social benefits system needs reforms, in 2002 a survey on the effectiveness of social benefits (including family benefits) and their influence on the labour supply was performed by the Praxis Centre for Policy Studies with the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

2.4 Indicate the status of the Estonian Child Welfare strategy for 2003-2005 and elaborate its contents, specifically how it intends to implement the Convention

The preparation of the Estonian Child Welfare Strategy for 2003-2005 is in its final stage. The Ministry of Social Affairs will present the Strategy to the Government of the Republic for approval. The adoption of the Strategy permits the implementation of the objectives specified in the strategy beginning from 2003.

The objective of the strategy is to guarantee welfare to children, and favourable environment for children's growth and development. The rights and freedoms guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are implemented in the greatest possible extent through the objectives of the strategy.

The main keywords of the strategy are:

- raising the role of preventive activities in child protection work
- valuing the role of parent and strengthening quality of family work
- introduction of different study forms in order to guarantee availability and affordability of education to all children
- development of network operations at the community level in order to ensure the effective protection of a child in need of assistance
- creation of productive opportunities for children with special needs to receive necessary assistance and support
- improvement of quality and accessibility of health care services
- improvement and enhancement of rehabilitation and advising systems
- raising of effectiveness of the organisational system of child welfare, including the significant supplementation of co-ordination and supervision structures in the area of child welfare, at the level of central government and at the level of local governments.

The strategy lists specific activities and deadlines, as well as specific activities to different institutions responsible for the achievement of the objectives.

3. Please provide information on the State party's public awareness campaigns of the Convention, particularly for professionals working for and with children (government officials, media and community-based org.) and public, incl. children themselves.

The introduction of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its principles to children and professionals who work with children takes place in the process of regular study and training.

At Tallinn Pedagogical University, the curriculum of bachelor's and master's students in social work contains the subject "Principles of child welfare", in which rights of the child topics are dealt, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. There is also an additional specialisation entitled "Child welfare", which is chosen by students who plan to work with children in future. In the framework of the above-mentioned additional specialisation, there is a course entitled "The legal foundations of child welfare", which deals precisely with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the Tallinn Pedagogical University training of the teachers include courses about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The social work and social policy department of Tartu University has a compulsory course at the bachelor's level entitled "The legal foundations of social work", in which the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is examined in great detail. At the master's level there is a course entitled "Methods of child welfare", which among other things analyses the practical problems of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Training of the teachers at the master's level includes a course entitled "Methods of child welfare".

At the Faculty of Law of Tartu University, a compulsory course, "Social welfare law" is taught. The course includes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students may also choose the two-semester course "The legal aspects of child abuse", which concentrates on an in-depth analysis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Practical seminars also take place in the framework of the above-mentioned courses.

Several seminars in the area of human rights have been organised for practitioners, where the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have also been examined. The Estonian Union for Child Welfare has organised seminars introducing the convention to local government child welfare officials and teachers at comprehensive schools.

In 2001 the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized different seminars concerning human rights issues for police officers, for instance: "Protection of human rights", "Family violence"; "Protection of human rights in Europe and in Estonia"; "Humanitarian affairs and human rights". In April 2002 a two-part training session on police ethics and human rights was organised for police officers with the support of Great Britain.

Children get acquainted with the principles of the Convention during the course of regular study. In accordance with the state curriculum for Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools, students study the bases of the Estonian legal system as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Several specific training materials for teaching of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have been published recently:

- 1) In 2001 methodological guidebook for teaching of the rights of the child (in CD format) was completed by the Estonian UN Association with the support of the Ministry of Education. The CD was sent to all comprehensive schools.
- 2) In August 2001 the Estonian National UNICEF Committee completed auxiliary material for teachers and a workbook for students, "*Mina, sina, tema, meie teie nemad...*" [Me, you, he, we, you, they...] for the introduction of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in schools. The sets of auxiliary materials were sent to Estonian comprehensive schools free of charge for the 2001/2002 school year.
- 3) Non-profit association Juventas has prepared a youth law guide that *inter alia* deals with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The guide is also available on the Internet at the address: www.noor.ee. The Ministry of Education and Tartu City Government have taken part in financing the programme.
- 4) The Estonian Union for Child Welfare has completed several collections of training materials concerning teaching of the rights of the child, which can be ordered and borrowed from the Estonian Union for Child Welfare.

The important role of the NGOs in raising public awareness about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child cannot be underestimated. The largest organisation dealing with the rights of the child - the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, has organised different seminars and other activities, with the financial support of the Government.

The Estonian Union for Child Welfare has introduced a programme "Children and Law" which deals with the presentation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the framework of this programme, the Estonian Union for Child Welfare has organised seminars introducing the Convention to child protection officials and teachers at comprehensive schools; issued several publications and methodological materials introducing the rights of the child. Campaigns have also been organised, for instance the "*Ära Löö Last*" [Don't hit the Child] campaign has been held for two years. The programme participates in the European Union, Save the Children Alliance and UNHCR co-operation programme Separated Children in Europe.

In 2003 an international conference on the topic of the rights of the child will be organised. This would significantly raise awareness in Estonian society about the rights of the child. The Ministry of Social Affairs will publish a package of training materials about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The amounts received from the gambling tax will be used to finance the programme.

In 2003 the Estonian Union for Child Welfare programmes “Children and violence” and “Children and Family” will be funded from the same source. The first programme deals with investigation of the nature and prevalence of child violence in connection with the implementation of intervention measures. The second programme focuses attention on child abuse, and in that framework a child abuse prevention (CAP) programme will be launched.

The objective of the programme “Children and Family” is to create a favourable growing environment for children by supporting families and involving them in different activities.

In 2002/2003 school year, the Union of Estonian Student Councils (an Estonia-wide union of students of general education schools) has introduced the project “Rights of the Youth”. The main objective of the project is to increase students’ knowledge of their rights and obligations. The project consists of four parts – 7 training sessions, conference, publishing of a guide in the area of the rights of the youth and the creation of a network of support system. This project can be considered as the first large-scale nation-wide campaign regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages of the state party as well as in other languages and dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

According to article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia the only official language in Estonia is Estonian. Most spoken foreign language in Estonia is Russian and for the latter reason all important legal acts are also translated into Russian. The text of the Convention on the Rights of Child in Estonian is annexed to the additional information.

PART III

4.1 New bills and enacted legislation

Since the year 2000 Estonia has acceded to the following international conventions that aim to protect child rights and welfare or which have impact to this field:

- 1) European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children;
- 2) ILO Convention no 182: Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
- 3) Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption;
- 4) Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
- 5) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with Regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine;
- 6) Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with Regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings;
- 7) Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia;
- 8) Revised European Social Charter.

Preparations have been made for the ratification of the European Code of Social Security.

Many new domestic acts and regulations have been adopted and existing ones have been amended thus significantly enhancing the child protection system and ensuring its effective functioning. The following acts, for instance, have been passed:

- 1) State Family Benefits Act;
- 2) Social Benefits for Disabled Persons Act

New **Penal Code** substituting the Criminal Code came into force on 01.09.2002. According to the new Code: "A person is capable of guilt if at the time of commission of the act he or she is mentally capable and at least 14 years of age." Under the old Criminal Code, as an exception, a person who committed an offence at the age of 13 to 15 was subject to criminal liability in certain cases set out in the Criminal Code.

If a court finds that a minor person who committed an offence can be influenced without imposing criminal punishment, the court may apply means of influencing set out in the Penal Code.

Taking into account the level of moral and mental development of a person of 14 to 18 years of age and his or her ability to understand the unlawfulness of his or her act or to act according to such understanding, the court may release the person from punishment and impose the following sanctions on him or her:

- 1) admonition;
- 2) subjection to supervision of conduct;
- 3) placement in a youth home or boarding school;
- 4) placement in a school for pupils who need special treatment due to behavioural problems.

Juvenile Sanction Act was amended by Penal Code Implementation Act. Juvenile Sanction Act regulates the liability of minors who have committed an unlawful act punishable according to the Penal Code or other Act (as misdemeanour/administrative offence) and who have not reached the age of criminal liability.

Significant amendments in the legislative acts have been passed in the field of education.

Amendments to the Basic and Upper Secondary Schools Act

Amendment to section 3¹ established that the development plan has to reflect the necessary and possible measures to be implemented in non-Estonian language upper secondary schools for transition to instruction in Estonian. (Riigikogu Act of 26 March 2002, came into effect on 29 April 2002).

The law was amended with section 16¹. The amendment introduced the term "boarding school facilities", establishing of boarding school facilities, admitting of students to the facilities, incl. to state-supported places (article 16¹) and financing of boarding school facilities (article 44).

According to the estimates of education departments about 1-1.3% of students in basic schools have a family situation that is not supportive of the child's fulfilment of the right to education or obligation to attend school. This was the reason for the necessity to expand boarding school facilities and to allocate state funding to a certain number of places in them (amendments came into force on 29 July 2002).

Section 32¹ establishes that in order to cover the cost of school lunches for students in 1-4 years of study and if possible also other students' lunch costs, special appropriations from the state

budget will be made to rural municipality and city budgets (Riigikogu Act of 18 June 2002, the amendment came into effect on 1 September 2002).

The procedure for creating conditions for learning the mother tongue and studying the national culture for students in Estonian-language schools whose mother tongue is not Estonian. (Government of the Republic Regulation no. 209 of 2 July 2002). As of September 2003, students whose mother tongue is other than the language of instruction at their school will be provided a possibility to study their national language and culture in the scope of two weekly hours as optional subjects if there are at least ten students with the same mother tongue in the school and if their parents have submitted a relevant written application. The basis for drawing up the syllabus for studying the language and culture, possibilities for the introduction and organisation of study, obligations, responsibility and terms are established.

Amendment of the Government of the Republic Regulation no. 168 of 26 May 2000 on **“The statute and form of the basic and upper secondary school certificate of education and state examination certificate”** (Government of the Republic Regulation no. 168 of 21 May 2002). The basic school certificate of education is now also issued to students who have finished the coping school. The requirements of form of the certificate are established.

Minister of Education Regulation no. 64 of 12 August 2002 on **“The number of school years, list of subjects and the number of lessons in the special school for children with disabilities and in the sanatorium-school”**. The distribution of lessons in the schools for children with special needs takes into account the amendments in the national curriculum and depending on the special educational needs of students allows to extend the study time by one or two years (up to 10-11 years) for the acquiring of compulsory basic education. The regulation also serves as an example for teachers in ordinary schools in designing an individual curriculum for a child with a similar disorder.

Amendments to the **Vocational Educational Institutions Act** establish the conditions and requirements for the organisation and financing of preliminary vocational training and provide for the possibilities of preliminary vocational training for young people without basic education, and for students in the basic and upper secondary schools (amendments came into force on 22 July 2001).

The Minister of Education Regulation no. 13 of 16 January 2002 on **“The conditions for the integration of the Estonian language state examination of the school-leavers enrolled in non-Estonian study groups acquiring vocational secondary education on the basis of basic education and of the Estonian language proficiency examination”** established the conditions for integrating with the Estonian language proficiency examination the state examination in the Estonian language taken by students who acquire vocational secondary education on the basis of basic education and are enrolled in non-Estonian groups. In accordance with the regulation the school-leavers who are enrolled in non-Estonian study groups acquiring vocational secondary education on the basis of basic education who pass the Estonian language state examination with at least 60 points have the right to receive the certificate of medium level proficiency in Estonian.

3.2 Newly implemented policies

In 2000 the Estonian Government initiated the reform of the child protection system with the aim to create effectively functioning child protection system.

In 2001 a project commissioned and financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs was launched at the Public Health and Social Training Centre, with the objective of optimising child welfare. The centre has at present compiled a brief overview of child welfare and the factors optimising its organisation. A general framework scheme for the formation of child welfare co-operation networks has been presented, and a model of the possible co-operation network and a brief description of the organisation of its work have been elaborated.

Action plan for the development of vocational education in 2001-2004, approved by the Government of the Republic on 12 June 2001 has a main goal to promote young people's competitive ability at the labour market, to ensure social preparedness and to expand availability of vocational education. The content of education will be updated (curricula, teacher training), the learning environment will be modernised and the quality of teaching will be brought in line with the requirements of the labour market.

Other important programmes in the field of education are: **The concept of youth work in Estonia and the Estonian youth work development plan** for 2001-2004, approved by the Government of the Republic on 3 July 2001 and **Tiger Leap Plus. Implementation of information and communication technology in the Estonian school 2001-2005**.

3.3 Newly implemented programmes

Several new state programmes for the improvement of the welfare of children and youth have been developed and approved by the Government of the Republic:

- 1) Project for advising of youth in the area of reproductive health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, 2002-2006
- 2) Project for promotion of youth employment
- 3) Development and implementation of anti-narcotics strategy
- 4) State immuno-prophylactic programme for the avoidance of communicable diseases, 2001-2005.
- 5) "Youth recreational holiday" project
- 6) Open Youth Centres Programme
- 7) Student lodgings project

The following state programmes are ongoing:

- 1) Alcoholism and substance abuse prevention programme 1997-2007
- 2) Health programme for children and youth, up to year 2005
- 3) HIV/AIDS prevention programme 2002-2006
- 4) Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007
- 5) Targeted public health programme
- 6) Tuberculosis eradication programme 1998-2003
- 7) Preventive work in the social sphere
- 8) Reorganisation of state social welfare institutions
- 9) Implementation of open care
- 10) Implementation of state crime prevention strategy up to 2005
- 11) UNESCO initiative "Education for all" national action plan
- 12) Nordic and Baltic countries joint project "A School for All"

