



**The Estonian Environment  
Information Centre**

Compiled and edited by Karmen Kaukver  
Translation from Estonian: A&A Lingua  
Photos: Natalija Kohv, Merike Liiver,  
Arvo Liiver, Andre Zahharov

Design and layout: B2 Eesti

Printed by B2 Eesti, Türi 6a, 11313 Tallinn, Estonia,  
[www.b2.ee](http://www.b2.ee)

Printed on environmentally friendly paper.

ISBN 978 - 9985 - 881 - 58 - 3 (hard copy)  
ISBN 978 - 9985 - 881 - 60 - 6 (online)



The Estonian Environment Information Centre is a state agency founded in 1993 and administered by the Ministry of the Environment.

The EEIC collects, processes, analyses and distributes information about nature in Estonia, the state of the environment and factors that impact them.

ABOUT US



**Environmental  
information**

## The history of the EEIC dates back to 1988

This was the year in which the Estonian Nature Protection and Forest Management Committee's Scientific Information Centre for Environmental Exploitation was established. Two years later, this state agency was transformed into a small company called Environmental Exploitation Information Centre. In 1993, it became a state agency administered by the Ministry of the Environment – the Estonian Environment Information Centre.



## Mission

### - **trustworthy environmental information for everyone**

We collect, process and analyse information about nature in Estonia, the state of the environment and factors that impact them. We are a source of reliable and unbiased environmental information for decision-makers and the public, helping to promote public environmental awareness.

## Vision

### - **to be the leading centre for reliable information about the environment in Estonia**

Prioritisation of the environment in society increases the demand for environmental information and its quality and availability. Our goal is to continue to be Estonia's most professional centre for the collection and analysis of environmental information. We pay an increasing amount of attention to raising the quality of data and identifying the needs of target groups. Distribution of environmental information via the print and electronic media is an important way to raise the environmental awareness of the population. We regularly contribute to development of ways of disseminating environmental information, using the latest technologies and best experience from around the world.



The EEIC treats the entire country's environment as a whole, considering all aspects that could have an impact on the status of the environment.

The EEIC makes sure that reliable and optimum independent environmental information is in the right place at the right time. This makes it possible to take into account environmental aspects as well as economic and social aspects in the making of important decisions.

We receive data from practically every environmental field in Estonia, from information on air quality to data on seismic events. As a result, we can offer environmental information that encompasses all of Estonia and most fields of the environment.



## **We offer reliable environmental information in comprised and analysed form.**

The EEIC's role in the Estonian national environmental information network is to collect, analyse and distribute environmental information.

We do not directly collect data ourselves, but receive them from data generators (such as companies, environmental authorities, state monitoring programme implementers etc) who enter data into information systems (Estonian nature information system, Information System of Environment Permits, Waste Data Management System etc). These integrated parts of the environmental register ensure data coverage in the Environmental Register and serve as tools for environmental officials, finding practical use in governing various fields and preparing decisions.

We also administer a number of other databases and information systems in addition to the integrated systems of the Environmental Register: the Estonian greenhouse gas emissions trading registry, National Register of Products of Concern, and the fuel monitoring registry etc.

Data in environmental registers and information systems can be accessed over the Internet. In addition to information distributed over electronic channels, we also publish books and pamphlets.

In addition to the collection, analysis and distribution of environmental information, we carry out the function of national monitoring programme coordinator, enter into agreements for use of the European Union eco-label and issue EMAS certificates from the European eco-management and audit scheme.



## Cooperation

We cooperate most closely with the Ministry of the Environment, the agencies in its area of administration and the environmental authorities of all 15 of Estonia's counties. The primary form of cooperation with the environmental authorities is annual environmental reporting. In this framework, we receive environmental data from all over Estonia, on the basis of which we report on the state of the Estonian environment to the European Union and international organisations based on the obligations assumed by the Estonian state. Other key partners in cooperation include the Statistical Office, the Land Board, the responsible implementing authorities of the national environmental monitoring programme, research institutions, companies and many others.

One of the EEIC's longstanding partners in cooperation in Europe is the European Environment Agency, with which cooperation began in 1994. The EEIC is the EEA's liaison body in Estonia.

Fulfilling the role of Estonian liaison body requires the EEIC to forward environmental information obtained from Estonia to the EEA via the European environmental information and observation network, EIONET. Pursuant to the obligations assumed by the Estonian government, EEIC forwards Estonian environmental data to the European Statistical Office EUROSTAT, the UN Environmental Programme and a number of other European and international agencies.

In addition to our work for the European Environmental Agency, we take part in many international projects, fulfilling the functions of national liaison body in the biodiversity convention information network, for one.





EEIC distributes information on nature in Estonia, the state of the environment and factors that have an effect on them. The data from the EEIC are objective, reliable and verified.

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION CAN I RECEIVE FROM THE EEIC?



**Environmental  
information**

## Biodiversity and nature conservation

We are a source for data on protected sites – protected areas, special conservation areas, species protection sites, places where certain species are found, sites protected on the local government level and locations of areas determined on the basis of international obligations (such as Natura 2000 and Ramsar Convention wetlands).

In addition we administer and release data on key biotopes.

The EEIC also administers noteworthy sites such as sites planned for protection, and entries in the Eesti Ürglooduse Raamat (Book of Primeval Nature) on geological sites, semi-natural biotic communities and heritage sites related to forests.

With regard to hunting, we distribute information on the locations of hunting districts and game trophies.



## Ambient air

We distribute information on emissions quantities for various pollutants discharged into the atmosphere from stationary and diffuse pollution sources.

Data on atmospheric air are collected by economic activities on the national, county and municipal level. Information is also available on the primary sources of atmospheric pollution and use of solvents and fuels.

## Climate change and ozone

In the field of climate change and ozone, we distribute information on greenhouse gas emissions trading, on joint implementation, on compiling an inventory of greenhouse gases and on use and phase-out of substances that deplete the ozone layer.



## Water

The water database encompasses springs, flowing bodies of water, stationary bodies of water, marine areas, wells, water intakes. We distribute information on use of surface and ground water, pollution loads for bodies of water, and water quality.

## Environmental monitoring

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, the EEIC coordinates the state environmental monitoring programme. The relevant monitoring data are stored at EEIC. The monitoring data include information on natural sites, natural biotic communities, water quality, species under conservation, and key biotopes.



## Waste

We distribute information on the type and amount of waste generated and handled in Estonia as well as imported and exported waste, by each county and municipality.

We also offer information on quantities of products of concern made in, imported to or exported from Estonia (such as electrical and electronic devices, batteries, tires etc) according to both manufacturer and product category as well as information on collection, processing and disposal of waste from products of concern.

We also distribute information on the generation and recycling of packaging waste by each type of packaging material.



**We take environmental interests into account in deciding whether certain environmental information should be made public.**

For this reason, we do not disclose information that could jeopardise a conservation area or protected species or the preservation of its habitat if the information became public. Nor do we release information that consists of business secrets or is still pending verification.



To reach all of our target groups, we respond to requests for environmental information through many channels.

WHO CAN OBTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND WHERE CAN IT BE OBTAINED?



**Environmental  
information**

**Anyone can receive information on the environment,** whether they are a politician, official, entrepreneur, scientist, student, pupil or other. Information is forwarded to recipients as quickly as possible and in the form agreed upon.



[www.keskkonnainfo.ee](http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee)

The EEIC homepage, [www.keskkonnainfo.ee](http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee), features reliable information for all our target groups. Whatever your question about the environment, it is worth first visiting [www.keskkonnainfo.ee](http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee).

The website offers information on the state of the environment and environmental trends in words and figures as well as graphs, maps, number of web applications and electronic publications.

If you don't find what you are looking for on our website, call us or send us an e-mail.



**A selection of the databases and Web applications administered by EEIC:**

Environmental Register

Environmental Register website

Information System of Environmental Permits KLIS

Estonian Nature Information System EELIS

EELIS Infopage

Fisheries Information System KALA

Air pollution Sources Information System OSIS

Waste Data Management System JATS

National Register of Products of Concern PROTO

Estonian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Registry

Fuel Monitoring Database

National environmental monitoring programme website



## Publications

Since 1994, the EEIC has issued annual publications on water, air and waste based on environmental activity reporting by companies. The publications provide a snapshot of the state of the environment in the reporting year and serve as a good foundation for the necessary actions taken by decision-makers.

From 1988-1998, we compiled parallel Estonian and English versions of the annual environmental survey Keskkond (The Environment) in collaboration with the implementers of the national monitoring programme. From 2005, the Keskkonnaülevaade will be published every four years.

The EEIC also publishes Keskkonnaseire (Environmental Monitoring). This is the annual report on Estonian national environmental monitoring, reflecting changes in the environment and attempting to identify problems that will require the implementation of urgent measures or further additional research.

In addition to periodicals, the EEIC also issues individual publications in Estonian and English.

Electronic publications can be read at [keskkonnainfo.ee](http://keskkonnainfo.ee). Hard copy publications are available from the EEIC or libraries.



## Library

Our library stocks speciality literature on the following subjects

- \* biodiversity
- \* geological and geodetic information systems
- \* waste
- \* environmental policy
- \* environmental monitoring
- \* climate
- \* nature conservation
- \* domestic and international environmental surveys
- \* water
- \* air

The materials in our library are of primary interest to environmental specialists and students of all grade levels who need resources in their everyday work.

The publications in the library are meant for in-library use.

In addition to the EEIC's own publications, our library stocks the publications of the European Environment Agency.





**Environmental  
information**



**Estonian Environment  
Information Centre**

Address: Mustamäe tee 33,  
10616 Tallinn, Estonia

Tel: +372 673 7577

Fax: +372 673 7599

E-mail: [info@ic.envir.ee](mailto:info@ic.envir.ee)

Homepage: [www.keskkonnainfo.ee](http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee)

ISBN 978-9985-881-58-3