



# **NATIONAL EHE REPORT ESTONIA**

**Helis Rõuk, MA  
Tallinn University**

Project details: "Teaching English as a content subject at the tertiary level - a modular approach" (TE-CON3)

2020-1-PL01-KA203-081894

co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

---

- The education system
- Institutions
- Numerical data
- Language policies
- Englishes

# GENERAL ORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

---

- 60% of courses must be taught in Estonian in upper secondary schools.
  - A 60/40 system.
- Native language from pre-school education to higher education.
- Three cycles (Bachelor-Master-PhD model)
  - Bachelor's for 3 years.
  - Master's for 2 years.
  - PhD up to 4 years.
  - Integrated Bachelor's and Master's programmes
- Short courses.
  - International summer and winter courses.

# INSTITUTIONS OF HE

---

- 18 HE institutions:
  - 6 universities under public law
  - 1 privately owned university
  - 4 private professional higher education institutions
  - 7 state professional higher education institutions

**Tallinn:**

- Estonian Academy of Arts
- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre
- Tallinn University
- Tallinn University of Technology
- The Institute of Theology of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Estonian Methodist Theological Seminary
- Estonian Entrepreneurship University for Applied Sciences
- Estonian Business School
- Estonian Academy of Security Sciences
- TTK University of Applied Sciences
- Tallinn Health Care College

**Tartu:**

- Estonian University of Life Sciences
- University of Tartu
- Tartu Theological Seminary
- Estonian Aviation Academy
- Estonian National Defence College
- Pallas University of Applied Sciences
- Tartu Health Care College



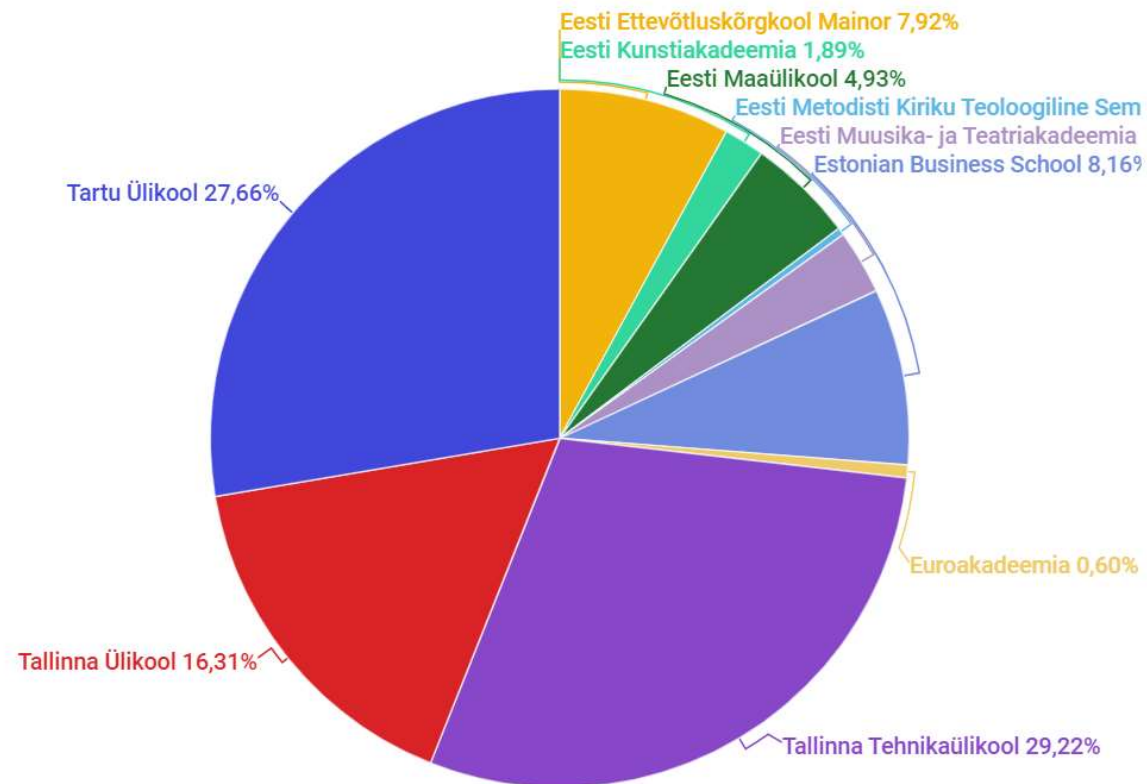
# NUMERICAL DATA

---

- 5235 international students in 2020/2021 (60% from developing countries).
- 11.6% of the students in Estonia.
  - Focus on Master's and PhD studies.
- Example:
  - 6 Bachelor's programmes
  - 17 Master's programmes
  - 13 PhD programmes

# FOREIGN STUDENTS IN ESTONIA IN 2019/2020

## Välisüliõpilased Eestis õppeaastal 2019/2020



# IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

---

- ‘Parallel language use’ in HE documents.
- Tackling the ‘language question’.
  - Internationalisation.
- Framework of protection for Estonian.
- Promoting the use of foreign languages (Soler-Carbonell 2015).
- Fragile.



# GENERAL ENGLISH

---

- Study programmes in Estonian.
  - Courses to improve professional written and oral communication skills.
- Applicants expected to have B2.
  - Achieving it during the study period.
- General English courses before ESP.
  - Up to three courses.
- Authorised centres for international language exams.

# ACADEMIC ENGLISH

---

- Master's programmes
- Academic Communication in English
- Academic Writing in English

# CLIL

---

- Teachers receive a theoretical course
- Used in lower and upper secondary schools.
- [Estonian Best Practices of Remote Learning in CLIL](#)

# ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES (ESP)

---

- Divergence between General English and professional needs.
  - Narrowing the gap.
- Implementing new ESP courses
  - Labour market.
- Practices and methodologies.
- Teaching ESP for several decades.
  - Compulsory courses for the last 7 years.
  - Combination of different disciplines (Meristo and López 2020).

# ESP

---

- Divided into levels.
  - Corresponds to CEFR levels.
- Placement test.
  - General English courses beforehand.
- International language exams.
- Graduating from a Bachelor's or Master's programme.
- Subject-specific language tests.

# STAFF

---

- Employees at least at level B2
- Lecturers teaching courses in English at least at level C1.



**Thank you for your attention!**

Helis Rõuk

helisr@tlu.ee