



gesis

Leibniz Institute  
for the Social Sciences

TECHNICAL *Reports*

2010|17

European *Values* Study 

EVS 2008 Method Report

Country Report - Estonia

*Documentation of the full data release 30/11/10*

*Related to the national dataset*

*Archive-Study-No. ZA4766, doi:10.4232/1.10161*

*European Values Study and*

*GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences*

## Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork of the 2008 European Values Study (EVS) was financially supported by universities and research institutes, national science foundations, charitable trusts and foundations, companies and church organizations in the EVS member countries.

A major sponsor of the surveys in several Central and Eastern European countries was Renovabis.



Renovabis - Solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe: Project No. MOE016847 <http://www.renovabis.de/>.

An overview of all national sponsors of the 2008 survey is provided in the "EVS 2008 Method Report" in section funding agency/sponsor, the "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations", and on the website of the European Values Study <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/sponsoring.html>.

The project would not have been possible without the National Program Directors in the EVS member countries and their local teams.

Gallup Europe developed a special questionnaire translation system WebTrans, which appeared to be very valuable and enhanced the quality of the project.

Special thanks also go to the teams at Tilburg University, CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg, and GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences Cologne.

## Contents

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Introduction .....	3
1 European Values Study .....	4
1.1 EVS 1981-2008: Participating countries .....	5
1.2 EVS 2008.....	6
1.3 Overview of data and documentation of EVS 2008 .....	7
1.4 Access to data and documentation .....	8
1.5 Bibliographic Citation .....	9
2 Country Report Estonia .....	10
Study Description	
Other documentation	

### List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Participating countries in EVS 1981-2008.....	5
Figure 2: Overview of available data and documentation.....	7

## Introduction

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The present paper is an excerpt from the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports in December 2010.

The EVS 2008 Method Report provides standardised information on the survey implementation and fieldwork procedures in the EVS member countries. Metadata includes all information given in the methodological questionnaires completed by each national team or the fieldwork organization.

After the EVS reviewed the fieldwork information it was archived in a database designed by the GESIS Data Archive. The outcome of the database was reviewed by the national teams and/or fieldwork organization before making them publicly available.

The structure of the database corresponds to DDI/XML V.2 standards and ensures different output formats. This allows users to choose between several approaches to the standardized information: the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset (PDF), a HTML surface that offers an extended Study Description, and the GESIS retrieval and analysis systems Online Study Catalogue ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

The Method Report consists of three sections providing metadata on the Integrated Dataset and the 47 national datasets:

Section one provides brief information on the EVS including an overview of all data and documentation available for EVS 2008 and refers to an easy way to get data access.

The study description of the Integrated Dataset in section two contains more general information and summarized country-specific information on study scope, principal investigator, funding agency, data depositor, data access and version, etc.

The third section includes the current country report on the national dataset providing comprehensive country-specific information on sampling procedure, mode of data collection, fieldwork procedure, and additional country-specific information on harmonized variables (electoral systems, political parties, education, occupation, and region).

## 1 European Values Study

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Where is Europe heading? This is one of the main questions of the European Values Study (EVS) – the most comprehensive research project on human values in Europe. The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on how Europeans think about family, work, religion, politics and society. Repeated every nine years in an increasing number of countries, the survey provides insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values, and opinions of citizens all over Europe.

The research program was initiated by the European Value System Study Group (EVSSG) in the late 1970s and has emerged as a well-established network of social and political scientists aiming at high standards in data creation and processing. The data is being intensively used in social science research and teaching. It may also be of interest to policymakers, politicians, journalists, and others interested in getting to know and understand the societies which they are part of.

Four waves of surveys were executed from 1981 to 2008. These surveys explore value differences, similarities, and value changes. Representative national samples were drawn from the population of citizens over 18 years of age and face-to-face interviews were carried out. Standardized questionnaires with comparable questions across waves were then administered.

- The first wave was conducted in 1981, when citizens of the European Member States of that time were interviewed. The national datasets were combined into an international dataset including a total of 16 countries.
- The second wave was launched in 1990 to explore the dynamics of value change. It covered almost the same themes as the first wave. Surveys were carried out in 29 European, as well as other countries.
- The wave in 1999/2000 was administered in 33 countries. Several new issues, such as questions on solidarity, social capital, democracy, and work ethics were added to the questionnaire of this wave.
- The fourth wave was carried out in 2008 and included a total of 47 European countries/regions. Again, the questions in this wave are highly comparable across waves and across countries. In addition, this wave has a strong focus on region, both within and across countries.

## 1.1 EVS 1981–2008: Participating countries

Specific information on country surveys and integrated data of single waves is available at the GESIS [Data Catalogue](#). The Study Descriptions include notes about Version History & Errata along with the information on the origin and context of the data.

Table 1: Participating countries in European Values Study 1981–2008

Country/Region	1981	1990	1999	2008
USA	1982	1990		
Canada	1982	1990		
Belgium	1981	1990	1999	2009
Denmark	1981	1990	1999	2008
France	1981	1990	1999	2008
Germany*	1981	1990	1999	2008/2009
Great Britain	1981	1990	1999	2009/2010
Iceland	1984	1990	1999	2009/2010
Ireland	1981	1990	2000	2008
Italy	1981	1990	1999	2009
Malta	1984	1991	1999	2008
Netherlands	1981	1990	1999	2008
Northern Ireland	1981	1990	1999	2008
Spain	1981	1990	1999	2008
Sweden	1982	1990	2000	2009/2010
Norway	1982	1990		2008
Austria		1990	1999	2008
Bulgaria		1991	1999	2008
Czech Republic		1991	1999	2008
Estonia		1990	1999	2008
Finland		1990	2000	2009
Hungary		1991	1999	2008/2009
Latvia		1990	1999	2008
Lithuania		1990	1999	2008
Poland		1990	1999	2008
Portugal		1990	1999	2008
Romania		1993	1999	2008
Slovak Republic		1991	1999	2008
Slovenia		1992	1999	2008
Belarus			2000	2008
Croatia			1999	2008
Greece			1999	2008
Luxembourg			1999	2008
Russian Federation			1999	2008
Turkey			1999	2008/2009
Ukraine			2001	2008
Albania				2008
Armenia				2008
Azerbaijan				2008
Bosnia and Herzegovina				2008
Cyprus				2008
Northern Cyprus				2008
Georgia				2008
Kosovo				2008
Macedonia, Republic of				2008
Moldova, Republic of				2008
Montenegro, Republic of				2008
Serbia				2008
Switzerland				2008

\*1981 only West-Germany

## 1.2 EVS 2008

The fourth wave has a persistent focus on a broad range of values. Questions with respect to family, work, religious, political and societal values are highly comparable with those in earlier waves (1981, 1990 and 1999/2000). This longitudinal scope of the study makes it possible to study trends in time. EVS draws random probability samples with a net sample size 1500 which again differs in countries regarding their population size. Usually citizens were interviewed personally (face-to-face).

The EVS 2008 has an increasing international and regional coverage. It covers almost all countries of Europe. In total, the fieldwork is administered in 47 countries/regions:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Cyprus (North), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

The full data release (Version 2.0.0, 2010-11-30) includes data and documentation of all participating countries/regions in EVS 2008.

Large efforts were taken to guarantee high scientific standards in developing and translating the Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires, high quality fieldwork, and standardized data processing and documentation.

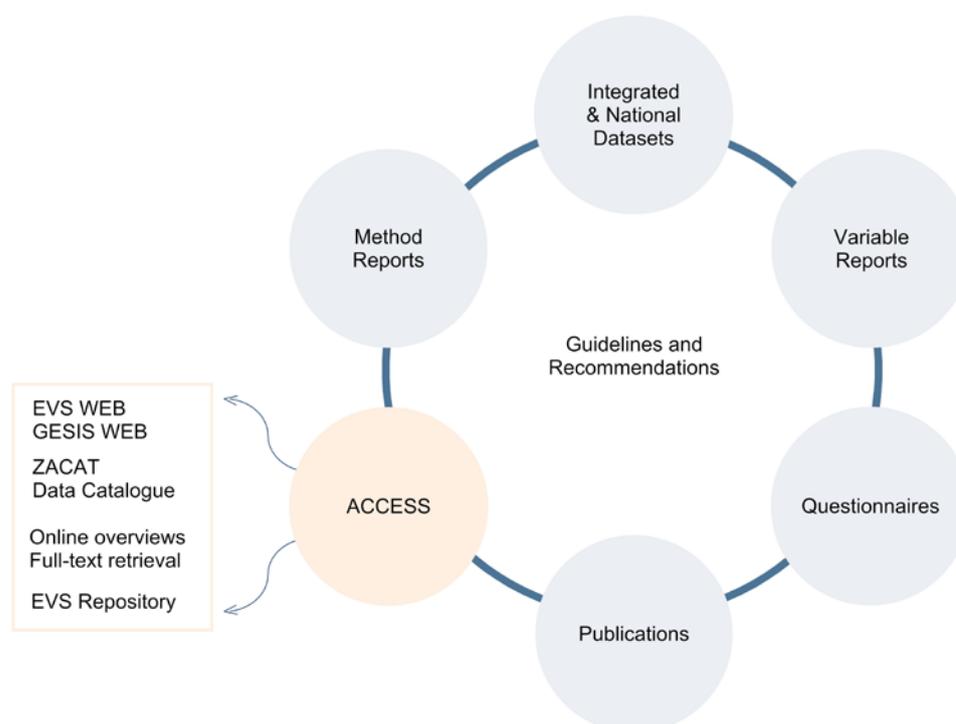
A set of guidelines and recommendations was set up and the whole process of data creation and processing was guided and monitored by the EVS advisory groups.

For more information, see the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations" provided on EVS website and additionally via GESIS Online Study Catalogue - ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

### 1.3 Overview of data and documentation of EVS 2008

The documentation created for the fourth EVS wave includes both the guidelines and standards developed to produce comparable data and detailed information on peculiarities of the national datasets on study and variable level.

Figure 1: Overview of available data and documentation



#### Data

Beside the Integrated Dataset the national datasets, including additional country-specific variables, are provided through ZACAT for national rather than multinational use.

#### Reports

Standards and recommendations designed by the EVS advisory groups for all countries are compiled in the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations". The information is mainly related to the questionnaire development and translation process, fieldwork, and data processing.

The "EVS 2008 Method Report" includes both summarized information on the Integrated Dataset and country reports with country-specific information on the origin of the national datasets. It is based on the methodological questionnaires submitted by all EVS member countries.

The English variable documentation on the Integrated Dataset and the bilingual variable report on each national dataset are available as "EVS 2008 - Variable Reports".

#### Questionnaires

The English Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires in all languages fielded in participating countries are downloadable.

#### Publications

The EVS repository is an easy way to find relevant publications based on EVS data. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

## 1.4 Access to data and documentation

The data and documentation of the four EVS waves is publicly available at the EVS and GESIS websites.

### General study information

The EVS website (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>) covers information on the origin of the project, and the master questionnaires as well as field questionnaires in different language versions. Additionally, method reports and original language variable reports of integrated and/or national datasets are offered for the third and fourth EVS wave.

### Data and documentation

**ZACAT** - GESIS Online Study Catalogue provides data of all EVS waves for retrieval purposes, data exploration and free download. It supports full access to datasets and documentation and assists users in identifying trend variables of all four waves. Furthermore, ZACAT enables comparisons of original questions in survey languages of the third and fourth wave.

### Version History & Errata

**GESIS Data Catalogue** provides an overview on version history and errata. It contains study descriptions for all EVS datasets with information about updates, errors, and error corrections.

### Online study and variable information

Online study description and variable overview offer comprehensive metadata on the EVS datasets and variables.

The **extended study description** of the EVS 2008 provides country-specific information on the origin and outcomes of the national surveys.

The **variable overview** is available for the four EVS waves 1981- 2008. It allows identification of country-specific deviations in the question wording within and across the waves.

### Full-text retrieval

Qbase-retrieval system is a facility for word/phrase searches in EVS text documents.

**Method report retrieval** supports full-text searches in EVS 2008 guidelines and method reports of both integrated and national datasets.

**Question text retrieval** serves for full-text searches in the Master Questionnaire and variable reports of integrated datasets of all EVS waves 1981-2008 and in bilingual variable reports of national datasets.

### Publication

EVS Repository contains publications based on the data of the EVS. These publications are mostly enhanced with direct links to datasets, variables, and syntax codes of concepts used. The EVS Repository can be found at <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications/>.

### Secondary education

In cooperation with Fontys University of Applied Sciences Netherlands, a special EVS website for educational use has been established (<http://www.atlasofeuropeanvalues.eu/>). By means of maps, teachers and pupils can make assignments and gain a better understanding of European values.

### The Atlas of European Values

Published in 2005, the Atlas of European Values unlocks the results of the EVS project for the general public. It presents values, beliefs, attitudes, and opinions through graphs, charts, and maps (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/evsatlas.html>).

## 1.5 Bibliographic Citation

Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Estonia. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4766 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30), [doi:10.4232/1.10161](https://doi.org/10.4232/1.10161).

The country report is an excerpt from the EVS 2008 Method Report on Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports. This paper should be cited as the following publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

In addition to data files a study comprises further data depositor's original documents and materials processed by the Data Archive: for example code sheets, questionnaires or reports. It is recommended to acknowledge respective documents from the archive holdings in publications by means of bibliographic citations including Archive-Study-No.

### Disclaimer

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service for whatever reason.

Country Report  
Estonia

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Study Description

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**EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2008 - ESTONIA**

**I. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION**

STUDY NO.

ZA4766

VERSION

Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10161 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10161>)

ALTERNATIVE TITLE

EVS 2008

STUDY COLLECTION: TITLE

European Values Study

STUDY COLLECTION: DESCRIPTION

The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values conducted in 1981 (16 countries), 1990 (29 countries), 1999/2000 (33 countries), and 2008 in 47 countries/regions.

AUTHORING ENTITY

European Values Study at Tilburg University

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Andrus Saar (Program director)

SAAR POLL Ltd

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

European Values Study (EVS) Foundation, Department of Sociology, Tilburg University

Renovabis

DATA DEPOSITOR

Andrus Saar, SAAR POLL Ltd

DATA DISTRIBUTOR

GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Data Archive

Bachemer Str. 40, 50931 Köln, Germany; Postal address: Postfach 41 09 60, 50869 Köln, Germany

Phone: +49/(0)221/47694-0; Fax: +49/(0)221/47694-44

GESIS Web: <http://www.gesis.org/>

EVS Web: <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Estonia. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4766 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10161 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10161>).

**II. STUDY SCOPE**

TOPIC CLASSIFICATION

Moral, religious, societal, political, work, and family values of Europeans.

ABSTRACT

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## Study Description

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Topics: 1. Perceptions of life: importance of work, family, friends and acquaintances, leisure time, politics and religion; frequency of political discussions with friends; happiness; self-assessment of own health; memberships and unpaid work (volunteering) in: social welfare services, religious or church organisations, education, or cultural activities, labour unions, political parties, local political actions, human rights, environmental or peace movement, professional associations, youth work, sports clubs, women's groups, voluntary associations concerned with health or other groups; tolerance towards minorities (people with a criminal record, of a different race, left/right wing extremists, alcohol addicts, large families, emotionally unstable people, Muslims, immigrants, AIDS sufferers, drug addicts, homosexuals, Jews, gypsies and Christians - social distance); trust in people; estimation of people's fair and helpful behaviour; internal or external control; satisfaction with life.

2. Work: reasons for people to live in need; importance of selected aspects of occupational work; employment status; general work satisfaction; freedom of decision-taking in the job; importance of work (work ethics, scale); important aspects of leisure time; attitude towards following instructions at work without criticism (obedience work); give priority to nationals over foreigners as well as men over women in jobs.

3. Religion: Individual or general clear guidelines for good and evil; religious denomination; current and former religious denomination; current frequency of church attendance and at the age of 12; importance of religious celebration at birth, marriage, and funeral; self-assessment of religiousness; churches give adequate answers to moral questions, problems of family life, spiritual needs and social problems of the country; belief in God, life after death, hell, heaven, sin and re-incarnation; personal God versus spirit or life force; own way of connecting with the divine; interest in the sacred or the supernatural; attitude towards the existence of one true religion; importance of God in one's life (10-point-scale); experience of comfort and strength from religion and belief; moments of prayer and meditation; frequency of prayers; belief in lucky charms or a talisman (10-point-scale); attitude towards the separation of church and state.

4. Family and marriage: most important criteria for a successful marriage (scale); attitude towards childcare (a child needs a home with father and mother, a woman has to have children to be fulfilled, marriage is an out-dated institution, woman as a single-parent); attitude towards marriage, children, and traditional family structure (scale); attitude towards traditional understanding of one's role of man and woman in occupation and family (scale); attitude towards: respect and love for parents, parent's responsibilities for their children and the responsibility of adult children for their parents when they are in need of long-term care; importance of educational goals; attitude towards abortion.

5. Politics and society: political interest; political participation; preference for individual freedom or social equality; self-assessment on a left-right continuum (10-point-scale); self-responsibility or governmental provision; free decision of job-taking of the unemployed or no permission to refuse a job; advantage or harmfulness of competition; liberty of firms or governmental control; equal incomes or incentives for individual efforts; attitude concerning capitalism versus government ownership; postmaterialism (scale); expectation of future development (less emphasis on money and material possessions, greater respect for authority); trust in institutions; satisfaction with democracy; assessment of the political system of the country as good or bad (10-point-scale); preferred type of political system (strong leader, expert decisions, army should rule the country, or democracy); attitude towards democracy (scale).

6. Moral attitudes (scale: claiming state benefits without entitlement, cheating on taxes, joyriding, taking soft drugs, lying, adultery, bribe money, homosexuality, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, suicide, corruption, paying cash, casual sex, avoiding fare on public transport, prostitution, experiments with human embryos, genetic manipulation of food, insemination or in-vitro fertilization and death penalty).

7. National identity: geographical group the respondent feels belonging to (town, region of country, country, Europe, the world); citizenship; national pride; fears associated with the European Union (the loss of social security and national identity, growing expenditure of the own country, the loss of power in the world for one's own country and the loss of jobs); attitude towards the enlargement of the European Union (10-point-scale); voting intentions in the next election and party preference; party that appeals most; preferred immigrant policy; opinion on terrorism; attitude towards immigrants and their customs and traditions (take jobs away, undermine a country's cultural life, make crime problems worse, strain on country's welfare system, threat to society, maintain distinct customs and traditions); feeling like a

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## Study Description

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stranger in one's own country; too many immigrants; important aspects of national identity (being born in the country, to respect country's political institutions and laws, to have country's ancestry, to speak the national language, to have lived for a long time in the country); interest in politics in the media; give authorities information to help justice versus stick to own affairs; closeness to family, neighbourhood, the people in the region, countrymen, Europeans and mankind; concerned about the living conditions of elderly people, unemployed, immigrants and sick or disabled people.

8. Environment: attitude towards the environment (scale: readiness to give part of own income for the environment, overpopulation, disastrous consequences from human interference with nature, human ingenuity remains earth fit to live in, the balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations, humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature, an ecological catastrophe is inevitable).

Demography: sex; age (year of birth); born in the country of interview; country of birth; year of immigration into the country; father and mother born in the country; country of birth of father and mother; current legal marital status; living together with the partner before marriage or before the registration of partnership; living together with a partner and living with a partner before; steady relationship; married to previous partner; living together with previous partner before marriage; end of relationship; number of children; year of birth of the first child; size and composition of household; experienced events: the death of a child, of father or mother, the divorce of a child, of the parents or of another relative; age of respondent when these events took place; age at completion of education; highest educational level attained; employment status; employed or self-employed in the last job; profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function and span of control; size of company.

Social origin and partner: respondent's partner or spouse: partner was born in the country and partner's country of birth; highest educational level; employment status of the partner; employment or self-employment of the partner in his/her last job; partner's profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function of the partner and span of control; unemployment and dependence on social-security of the respondent and his partner longer than three months in the last five years; scale of household income; living together with parents when the respondent was 14 years old; highest educational level of father/mother; employment status of father/mother when the respondent was 14 years old; profession of father/mother (ISCO-88) and kind of work; number of employees (size of business); supervising function and span of control of father and mother; characterization of the parents when respondent was 14 years old (scale: liked to read books, discussed politics at home with their child, liked to follow the news, had problems making ends meet, had problems replacing broken things); region the respondent lived at the age of 14, present place of residence (postal code); size of town; region.

Interviewer rating: respondent's interest in the interview.

Additionally encoded: interviewer number; date of the interview; total length of the interview; time of the interview (start hour and start minute, end hour and end minute); language in which the interview was conducted.

Additional country specific variables are included in the national datasets.

### UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

### UNIVERSE

Persons 18 years or older who are resident within private households, regardless of nationality and citizenship or language.

### GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

	Was there any regional categories changed since EVS 1999?	
	Yes	X

## Study Description

No	
Country having not participated to EVS 1999	

Please list the categories in the variable Region in the data set

Correspondence with NUTS classification

NUTS 1, used in EVS 1999		NUTS 3, used in EVS 2008	
Region	Counties	Region	Counties
North-Western Estonia	(1,5,10) Harju, Järva, Rapla	1 North Estonia	(1) Harju
North-Eastern Estonia	(3,7) Ida-Mru, Lääne-Mru	4 West Estonia	(2,6,9,11) Hiiu, Lääne, Pärnu, Saare
South-Eastern Estonia	(4,8, 12,13,15) Jõgeva, Põlva, Tartu, Valga, Võru	6 Central Estonia	(5,7,10) Järva, Lääne-Mru, Rapla
South-Western Estonia	(9,14) Pärnu, Vljandi	7 North-Eastern Estonia	(3) Ida-Mru
Western Estonia	(2,6,11) Hiiu, Lääne, Saare	8 South Estonia	(4,8,12,13,14,15) Jõgeva, Põlva, Tartu, Valga, Vljandi, Võru

### KIND OF DATA

Survey data

### FIELDWORK PERIOD

01-07-2008 to 31-08-2008

### III. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESSING

#### TIME METHOD

Cross section, partly repetitive

#### NUMBER OF VARIABLES

441

#### NUMBER OF UNITS

1518

#### ADDITIONAL COUNTRY-SPECIFIC VARIABLES

a. Additional country-specific questions included in the questionnaire:	
Yes	
No	X
b. Will additional country-specific variables be included in the data set deposited:	
Yes	
No	X
c. Will documentation of additional country-specific questions be deposited:	
Yes	
No	X

#### FIELDWORK ORGANISATION

SAAR POLL Ltd

Endla 4, Tallinn 10142, Estonia

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## Study Description

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### LANGUAGE OF THE INTERVIEWS

Estonian, Russian

### QUESTIONNAIRE TRANSLATION

WebTrans is a questionnaire database and translation system designed by Gallup Europe.

a. WebTrans has been used fully	X
WebTrans has not been used fully, but questions will be updated	
WebTrans has not been used (fully)	
b. Translation of questionnaire items changed since EVS 1999:	NAP
Yes	
No	
c. If Yes, please list the question numbers:	NAP
d. Who did the translation of the questionnaire?	
The fieldwork agency	
The Programme Director or its team	X
Any other person (please specify):	
e. Were professional translators involved in the translation process?	
Yes	
No	X
f. What type of translation procedure was followed?	
Simple back-translation	X
Iterative back-translation	
Other types of back-translation procedure	
TRADP or equivalent	
None of these	
g. Were there any questions or concepts that caused particular problems when being translated into your language?	
Yes	X
No	
Which?	
- Q21-v102: "nationality", "immigrants"	
- Q111-v337; Q117-v345: "disabled"	

### MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

Mode(s) of administration of the data collection (tick all applicable):	
CAPI (Computer assisted)	
PAPI (Paper)	X
Any other ....	

## Study Description

### FIELD WORK PROCEDURE

<b>A. INTERVIEWERS TRAINING</b>		
Total number of interviewers:		136
Number of experienced interviewers:		136
Number of inexperienced interviewers:		0
How many of the interviewers received specific training for this survey?		136
How many members of the research team attended/participated/organized training sessions of interviewers?		5
Written EVS specific instructions:		
Yes		X
No		
Training in refusal conversion:		
Yes		X
No		
<b>B. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE INTERVIEWERS</b>		
a. Employment status of interviewers:		
Free-lance interviewers		
Employed by the survey organization		X
Other (please give details):		
b. Payment of interviewers:		
Hourly		
Per completed interview		X
Assigned payment (a fix payment for an assigned number of interviews)		
Regular fixed salary		
Bonus payment		
Other (please give details):		
<b>C. VISITS TO THE RESPONDENTS</b>		
Total number of minimum visits per respondent/sampling unit:		4
Among the total, required visits on week-ends:		1
Among the total, required visits in the evening:		3
<b>D. ENHANCING THE INTERVIEWS, INCENTIVES</b>		
a. Was any information, advance letter, brochure, leaflet used?		
Use of advance letter		Yes
Use of brochure, leaflet, written information		No
b. Was any incentive offered to respondent?		
No incentives		
Unconditional monetary incentives (paid before the interview)		
Conditional monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)		
Unconditional non-monetary incentives (given before the interview)		
Conditional non-monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)		X
Please specify and give as much details as possible about the incentives:		
Small calendar with the SAAR Poll's company contact phone numbers.		
c. Use of other types of response enhancing measures (call-center, web-pages, hotline):		
Yes		
No		X
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:		

## Study Description

E. STRATEGY FOR REFUSAL CONVERSION	
Yes	X
No	
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:	
The most reasons for refusals there are nowadays: "I'm not interested" or "I'm tired because of too many surveys" or "Is it anonymous enough?" Therefore the interviewers were suggested to emphasize how important the survey is, that it's broadly international, regularly repeated every 9 years, that all answers are strictly confidential. Also there were emphasized that Saar Poll Ltd is trustworthy experienced company.	
F. PRETEST PERIOD (DD/MM/YY)	
From: 11-06-2008	
To: 14-06-2008	
Number of pretest interviews:	10

### CONTROL OPERATIONS

Please note that refusals and non-contacts refer to what is considered as the final status of the sample unit.

	Interviews	Refusals	Non-contacts
Number of units selected for back-checking		171	
Number of back-check achieved		161	
Number of units where outcome was confirmed		150	
Type of back-checks: P(ersonal), T(elephone) or M(ail)	T		

### CLEANING / VERIFICATION OF DATA AND QUESTIONNAIRE

A. CHECKING OF DATA	
a. Were data checked for consistency?	
Yes	X
No	
b. If yes, were the data edited?	
Yes, data corrected individually	X
Yes, data corrected automatically	
Yes, data corrected both individually and automatically	
No, no correction was done	
c. Were data corrected always according to filter instructions?	
Yes	X
No	
d. Who did the data corrections?	
The fieldwork agency	X
The Programme Director or its team	X
Any other person (please specify):	
B. VERIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - CAPI	NAP
a. How was the CAPI questionnaire programme checked?	
b. Who did the CAPI questionnaire checking?	
The fieldwork agency	

## Study Description

The Programme Director or its team	
Any other person (please specify):	
<b>C. VERIFICATOIN OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - PAPI</b>	
a. Was the scanning of optical or keying questionnaire checked?	
Yes	X
No	
b. Who did the PAPI questionnaire checking?	
The fieldwork agency	X
The Programme Director or its team	X
Any other person (please specify):	
c. Approximate proportion of questionnaires checked?	100%

### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sampling procedure involved the population of Estonia of 18 years or older, based on the population statistics of the Statistical Office of Estonia 2007.

We use manual random selection of settlements from the list of PCUs. We have a list of telephone owners with addresses by settlements. According to this list we use in selecting (systematic) starting points of routes.

In smaller settlements like villages we use following starting points according to specific to the settlement: post-office, shop, bus-stop, local authority, school, library, first house in a rotated way.

INFO+ 2007/2008 catalogues (15 books by counties).

For more elaborate information and tables see "Other documentation".

### CHARACTERISTIC OF SAMPLE

Response and non response (numbers)	
A. Total number of issued sample units (addresses, households or individuals):	2313
B. Refusal by respondent:	119
C. Refusal by proxy (or household or address refusal):	244
D. No contact (after at least 4 visits):	207
E. Language barrier:	20
F. Respondent mentally or physically unable to co-operate throughout fieldwork period:	14
G. Respondent unavailable throughout the fieldwork period for other reasons:	142
H. Address not residential (institution, business/industrial purpose):	49
I. Address not occupied (not occupied, demolished, not yet built):	0
J. Address not traceable:	0
K. Other ineligible address:	0
L. Respondent moved abroad/unknown destination:	0
M. Respondent deceased:	0
Y. Invalid interviews:	0
Z. Number of valid interviews:	1518
X. Number of units not accounted for (A-[sum of B to M,Y,Z]): if all sample units are accounted for, X will=0:	0

Did your sample have a panel component (either from the earlier EVS-survey or otherwise)?

Please specify:

- No panel component

## Study Description

### REPRESENTATIVITY

	Country level	Regional level
Age * Gender	X	X
Educational distribution	X	
Degree of urbanisation	X	X
Gender * Age * Education		
... (any other than the above mentioned-see Appendix A; please specify)		

Age\*Gender, in numbers:

Age	Country level		Regional level									
	Gender		Gender*Region (NUTS3)									
	Male	Female	Region 1		Region 4		Region 6		Region 7		Region 8	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
18-24	76177	73294	27209	26207	10020	9533	8807	8601	10131	9875	20010	19078
25-34	95600	94094	41897	41327	9744	9003	8948	8219	10780	10698	24231	24847
35-44	87630	92490	35777	37171	10580	11218	8931	9360	10074	11357	22268	23384
45-54	87014	101057	33424	41008	10570	11538	9320	10093	12494	15218	21206	23200
55-64	64703	85531	24809	34601	8109	10150	7018	8672	8377	11830	16390	20278
65-74	49068	82150	18732	31399	6352	10347	5061	8201	6157	11705	12766	20498
75 and older	27216	72035	9772	25209	3438	9003	2759	7609	3503	10046	7744	20168
TOTAL	487408	600651	191620	236922	58813	70792	50844	60755	61516	80729	124615	151453

Age\*Gender, in %:

Age	Country level, %		Regional level, %									
	Gender		Gender*Region (NUTS3)									
	Male	Female	Region 1		Region 4		Region 6		Region 7		Region 8	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
18-24	15,6	12,2	14,2	11,1	17,0	13,5	17,3	14,2	16,5	12,2	16,1	12,6
25-34	19,6	15,7	21,9	17,4	16,6	12,7	17,6	13,5	17,5	13,3	19,4	16,4
35-44	18,0	15,4	18,7	15,7	18,0	15,8	17,6	15,4	16,4	14,1	17,9	15,4
45-54	17,9	16,8	17,4	17,3	18,0	16,3	18,3	16,6	20,3	18,9	17,0	15,3
55-64	13,3	14,2	12,9	14,6	13,8	14,3	13,8	14,3	13,6	14,7	13,2	13,4
65-74	10,1	13,7	9,8	13,3	10,8	14,6	10,0	13,5	10,0	14,5	10,2	13,5
75 and older	5,6	12,0	5,1	10,6	5,8	12,7	5,4	12,5	5,7	12,4	6,2	13,3
TOTAL	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

## Study Description

Educational distribution (grouped categories are shown below):

	Country level	
	%	Number
Primary	29,2	317713
Secondary	55,6	604961
High	15,2	165385
TOTAL	100,00 %	1088059

(the Education was measured last time in the Population Census 2000)

Degree of urbanisation.  
Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+

	Country level		Regional level									
	%	Number	Region 1		Region 4		Region 6		Region 7		Region 8	
Urban	65,7	710272	84,0	359941	49,2	63762	21,6	24151	81,7	116240	52,9	146178
Rural	34,3	377787	16,0	68601	50,8	65843	78,4	87448	18,3	26005	47,1	129890
TOTAL	100,00 %	1088059	100,0	428542	100,0	129605	100,0	111599	100,0	142246	100,0	276068

### WEIGHTS AND CHARACTERISTIC OF NATIONAL POPULATION

a. National weights variables included in the data set:	
Yes	
No	X
b. If Yes, please specify very precisely and with as much details as possible what type of weights. Document as much as possible:	NAP
c. Provide all information necessary for the Methodology Group to compute weights (what is the selection probability for each potential respondent?)	
Number of inhabitants over 18 year in your country at the time of interviewing (ideally number of residential people that are not institutionalised = sample frame):	1 088 059
The population size (ideally over 18, residential and not institutionalised) of the areas/strata at each step in the sample:	see table below
The actual number of interviewed respondent at each step of the sample for each area/stratum:	see table below

Regions by NUTS3, population:

Code	Region	Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+	Number of inhabitants of age 18+
1	North Estonia	39,4%	428695
4	West Estonia	11,9%	129479
6	Central Estonia	10,3%	112070
7	North-Eastern Estonia	13,1%	142536
8	South Estonia	25,3%	275279
	TOTAL	100,0%	1088059

## Study Description

Urbanisation categories, population:

Code		Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+	Number of inhabitants of age 18+
1	Urban	65,7%	714855
2	Rural	34,3%	373204
		100,0%	1088059

Regions by NUTS3, actual number of interviewed respondents (unweighted):

Code	Region	Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+	Number of respondents interviewed
1	North Estonia	37,4%	567
4	West Estonia	12,4%	188
6	Central Estonia	10,1%	154
7	North-Eastern Estonia	12,3%	187
8	South Estonia	27,8%	422
	TOTAL	100,0%	1518

Urbanisation categories, actual number of interviewed respondents (unweighted):

Code		Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+	Number of respondents interviewed
1	Urban	71,0%	1078
2	Rural	29,0%	440
	TOTAL	100,0%	1518

### Weighting Variables

Weight: gender by age

The variable "weight" was computed by the EVS for all national datasets on the basis of information and population statistics provided by the EVS countries. The weight is constructed on the basis of gender and age categories (-24; 25-34; ... ; 65-74; 75 and over). Value '0' implies that year of birth information was missing in the data.

The weight adjusts the socio-structural characteristic in the samples to the distribution of gender and age of the universe-population. In a future release, the weight variable will be developed further (also taking at least region into account). The current weight variable should be used with caution. Especially when the weights are "big", say outside the 0.50-2.00 range.

For some national datasets (AT HR FR KOS RO SK SE CH) country specific original weight variables are provided additionally as delivered by the countries. For country-specific information, see Country Reports on national datasets.

## IV. DATA ACCESS

### USAGE REGULATIONS

Data and documents are released for academic research and teaching - Access category A.

### ANONYMISED DATA

According to data regulations in participating countries, only anonymised data are made available to users. Before depositing data, each national team was responsible for checking their data confidentiality.

	Anonymised - assured	Anonymised - Non assured
Respondent questionnaires	Yes	
Interviewer questionnaires	No such quest.	
Contact forms		x (non-assured)

### CITATION REQUIREMENTS

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## Study Description

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Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of a bibliographic citations as listed under item "Bibliographic Citation". To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Estonia. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4766 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10161 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10161>).

How to cite this publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

### DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

To provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of EVS data and to facilitate the exchange of information about the EVS, users of EVS data are required to send to bibliographic citations and/or electronic copies of each completed report, article, conference paper or thesis abstract using EVS data. These will be included in the EVS repository. For more information, see [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications).

### DISCLAIMER

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service for whatever reason.

### PUBLICATIONS

Publications using EVS data can be found in the EVS Repository. The repository is an easy way to find relevant publications in the field of value studies. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

The EVS Repository can be found at [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications).

### EDUCATION

Please specify the educational variable:

1. Primary education (Completed 6th grade)
2. Primary education (Completed 9th grade)
3. Primary education (vocational training on basis of primary school; higher step of level II)
4. Primary education (vocational training on basis of secondary education; higher step of level II)
5. Secondary education (higher step of level II)
6. Post-secondary non-tertiary education (on basis of general secondary; first step of level III)
7. Tertiary education (diploma education; level III)
8. Tertiary education (vocational training; first step of level III)
9. Tertiary education (Bachelor degree; first step of level III)
10. Tertiary education (Master's degree)
11. Tertiary education (PhD)

Description of educational system:

The Estonian educational system corresponds now to the Bologna Declaration. In order to enable the older

## Study Description

respondents easily recognize their educational level, correspondence with previous educational levels was described in brackets behind every new category (see above).

In accordance with the Law of Education of the Republic of Estonia student is obliged to go to school until reaching comprehensive education (9 grades) or getting 17 years old. Schoolable is child, who gets a 7 years old for October 1st on current year. By request of the parents school can accept child, who has got 7 years old for April 30th on current year.

General schools work with the programs of primary, basic and secondary as well as certain programs of special education. General curricula are taught in both vocational and college education schools.

Young people can acquire profession in vocational, college type and higher schools.

Purpose of vocational school is to help a person in acquiring, changing or raising qualification and preparing him/her for participation in changeable labour market. Basic training in vocational schools is pursued by four-stage programs which differ by their contents and length.

Professional college trains specialist of higher professional skills to work for different fields.

The system of higher education covers university (studies based on university programs - therein also doctoral studies, post-graduate art programs and etc.) and non-university studies (colleges).

Please indicate the correspondence between the national educational categories and ISCED standard classification.

Codes in Estonian questionnaire (V14.1.)	ISCED level
1.	1
2.	2A
3.	3B/3C
4.	4B
5.	3A
6.	5B2
7.	5B1
8.	5B1
9.	5A1
10.	5A2,5A3
11.	6

### OCCUPATION

Occupation should be measured by ISCO88 as supplied; please specify any deviations:

- No deviations

### POLITICAL PARTIES

Please give a short description of each political party in the data set.

## Study Description

		Description of parties
1.	Estonian Centrist Party (Eesti Keskerakond)	Centrist, a bit left oriented, social-liberalist party. Emphasizes progressive income tax system, strong social policy and formation of strong middle-class.
2.	Estonian Reform Party (Eesti Reformierakond)	Right-oriented conservative party. Emphasizes ethics and moral in politics and in governing.
3.	Estonian Peoples Union (Eestimaa Rahvaliid)	Centrist national-conservative party, has been more oriented to rural inhabitants and farmers, recently has become more oriented to wider population.
4.	Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit)	The union of the two right-oriented conservative parties. Emphasizes ethics and moral in politics and in governing. Emphasizes survival of Estonian nationality, culture and language.
5.	Estonian Social Democratic Party (Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond)	Social-democratic party (previous name was "Moderates"), a shift to left has been recent. Lays emphasis on employment and the rights of employees.
6.	Estonian Green Party (Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised)	Emphasizes ecological values.
7.	Estonian Christian Democrats (Erakond Eestimaa Kristlikud Demokraadid)	Too small to obtain 1% of votes
8.	Estonian Independence Party (Eesti Iseseisvuspartei)	Too small to obtain 1% of votes
9.	Estonian Left Party (Eesti Vasakpartei)	Too small to obtain 1% of votes
10.	Russian Party in Estonia (Vene Erakond Eestis)	Too small to obtain 1% of votes
11.	Estonian Constitution Party (Konstitutsioonierakond)	Too small to obtain 1% of votes

Please indicate the position of political parties in relation to each other on a 10 point left-right scale:

		Position of political party On the 10 points scale
1.	Estonian Centrist Party (Eesti Keskerakond)	3
2.	Estonian Reform Party (Eesti Reformierakond)	7
3.	Estonian Peoples Union (Eestimaa Rahvaliid)	4
4.	Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit)	7
5.	Estonian Social Democratic Party (Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond)	4
6.	Estonian Green Party (Erakond Eestimaa Rohelised)	5
7.	Estonian Christian Democrats (Erakond Eestimaa Kristlikud Demokraadid)	7
8.	Estonian Independence Party (Eesti Iseseisvuspartei)	9
9.	Estonian Left Party (Eesti Vasakpartei)	1
10.	Russian Party in Estonia (Vene Erakond Eestis)	2
11.	Estonian Constitution Party (Konstitutsioonierakond)	2

Please indicate the party size for each political party, by providing each party's share of the vote in the last national legislative election.

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## Study Description

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The list of leading parties in Estonia, that received the Parliament mandates on the last national elections:

Party	Share in vote	Number of mandates in Riigikogu (Parliament)
Reform Party	30,7%	31
Centre Party	28,7%	29
Pro Patria and Res Publica Union	18,8%	19
Estonian Social-Democratic Party	9,9%	10
Estonian Peoples' Union	5,9%	6
Estonian Greens	5,9%	6

Date of the last national legislative elections:

- 04-03-2007

Estonia does not have two rounds of elections.

### ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

- Only one single vote registered

Description of the electoral system with details and precision:

See "Other documents" for an elaborate description of the electoral system of Estonia.

## Other documentation: Estonia

### Sampling procedure

1. NUMBER OF PSUs planned :	<b>250</b>	
2. STRATIFICATION CRITERIA	Level: NUTS 3	
2.a. REGIONS	<b>Code</b> (according to nomenclature)	<b>Name of region</b>
	EE001	PÕHJA-EESTI
	EE004	LÄÄNE-EESTI
	EE006	KESK-EESTI
	EE007	KIRDE-EESTI
	EE008	LÕUNA-EESTI
2.b. URBANISATION CATEGORIES	<b>Code</b> (as it will appear in the datafile)	<b>Category</b>
	1	Urban
	2	Rural
3. BASE OF POPULATION FIGURES:	<input type="checkbox"/> + ] labour force (18 years or older) <input type="checkbox"/> ] 15 years old resident UNTIL 74 YEARS OLD <input type="checkbox"/> ] resident population, or <input type="checkbox"/> ] total population	
4. SOURCE OF POPULATION FIGURES, WITH REFERENCE YEAR:	Statistical Office of Estonia 2007	

5. PSU ALLOCATION																																															
a. BY THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION	URBANISATION																																														
	Level: NUTS 3																																														
		URBAN	RURAL	total																																											
	EE001	358957	63527	422484																																											
	EE004	68647	56113	124760																																											
	EE006	45624	62067	107691																																											
	EE007	124342	15065	139407																																											
EE008	152701	116154	268855																																												
<i>Total</i>	750271	312926	1063197																																												
b. PSU ALLOCATION PLAN BY URBANIZATION LEVEL	URBANISATION																																														
	Level: NUTS 3																																														
		URBAN (6/PSU)	RURAL (6/PSU)	total																																											
	EE001	84	15	99																																											
	EE004	16	14	30																																											
	EE006	11	14	25																																											
	EE007	29	4	33																																											
EE008	36	27	63																																												
<i>Total</i>	176	74	250																																												
C. CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Code</th> <th>Region</th> <th>Number of inhabitants of age 18+</th> <th>Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+</th> <th>Actual Number of interviewed respondents:</th> <th>Actual Proportion of interviewed respondents (unweighted):</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>North Estonia</td> <td>428695</td> <td>39,4%</td> <td>567</td> <td>37,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>West Estonia</td> <td>129479</td> <td>11,9%</td> <td>188</td> <td>12,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Central Estonia</td> <td>112070</td> <td>10,3%</td> <td>154</td> <td>10,1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>North-Eastern Estonia</td> <td>142536</td> <td>13,1%</td> <td>187</td> <td>12,3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>South Estonia</td> <td>275279</td> <td>25,3%</td> <td>422</td> <td>27,8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>1088059</td> <td>100,0%</td> <td>1518</td> <td>100,0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Code	Region	Number of inhabitants of age 18+	Proportion of inhabitants of age 18+	Actual Number of interviewed respondents:	Actual Proportion of interviewed respondents (unweighted):	1	North Estonia	428695	39,4%	567	37,4%	4	West Estonia	129479	11,9%	188	12,4%	6	Central Estonia	112070	10,3%	154	10,1%	7	North-Eastern Estonia	142536	13,1%	187	12,3%	8	South Estonia	275279	25,3%	422	27,8%		TOTAL	1088059	100,0%	1518	100,0%
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	8	South Estonia	275279	25,3%	422	27,8%																																									
		TOTAL	1088059	100,0%	1518	100,0%																																									

6. SELECTION OF STARTING POINTS	
a. SELECTION OF SETTLEMENTS	We use manual random selection of settlements from the list of PCUs.
b. SELECTION OF STARTING POINTS	<p>We have a list of telephone owners with addresses by settlements. According to this list we use in selecting (systematic) starting points of routes.</p> <p>In smaller settlements like villages we use following starting points according to specific to the settlement: post-office, shop, bus-stop, local authority, school, library, first house in a rotated way</p> <p>INFO+ 2007/2008 catalogues (15 books by counties)</p>

## Electoral system

### RIIGIKOGU ELECTION ACT

Passed on 12.06.2002, published in RT I 2002, 57, 355, entered into force pursuant to § 86

Amended by the following acts (date of adoption, publication in *Riigi Teataja*, date of enforcement):

12.02.2003 (RT I 2003, 26, 156) 21.03.2003

18.12.2003 (RT I 2003, 90, 601) 1.01.2004

21.01.2004 (RT I 2004, 6, 32) 14.02.2004

24.03.2004 (RT I 2004, 22, 148) 8.04.2004

22.09.2004 (RT I 2004, 71, 501) 29.10.2004

9.06.2005 (RT I 2005, 37, 281) 10.07.2005

7.06.2006 (RT I 2006, 30, 231) 14.07.2006

Chapter 1

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### § 1. Bases of election system

(1) The Riigikogu is comprised of 101 members.(2) Riigikogu elections shall be free, general, uniform and direct. Voting shall be secret.(3) Each voter shall have one vote.

(4) Election results shall be verified on the basis of proportional representation.

##### § 2. Time of regular elections

(1) Regular Riigikogu elections shall be held on the first Sunday of March of the fourth year following the preceding Riigikogu election year.(2) The President of the Republic shall, by a resolution, call regular Riigikogu elections on the basis of clause 78 3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia at least three months before the election day.

##### § 3. Bases and time of extraordinary elections

(1) The President of the Republic shall, by a resolution, call extraordinary Riigikogu elections on the basis of clause 78 3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia:

within three days as of the duty to call elections arising in the cases prescribed in §§ 89 and 119 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia; 2) within three days as of publication of the results of a referendum in the *Riigi Teataja* in the case prescribed in subsection 105 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia.

(2) In the case prescribed in § 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, the President of the Republic may, on the proposal of the Government of the Republic, call extraordinary Riigikogu elections within three days as of the date of an expression of no confidence in the Government of the Republic or the Prime Minister.

(3) Extraordinary Riigikogu elections shall not be held earlier than twenty days or later than forty days after the elections are called.

(4) The date for extraordinary Riigikogu elections shall be specified by the President of the Republic. Extraordinary elections shall be held on a Sunday.

##### § 4. Right to vote and to stand as candidate

(1) Estonian citizens who have attained 18 years of age by election day have the right to vote.

(2) A person who has been divested of his or her active legal capacity with regard to the right to vote shall not have the right to vote.

(3) A person who has been convicted of a criminal offence by a court and is imprisoned shall not participate in voting.

(4) Estonian citizens who have attained 21 years of age by the last day for the registration of candidates have the right to stand as candidates.

(5) A person who has been divested of his or her active legal capacity with regard to the right to vote shall not have the right to vote.

(6) A person who has been convicted of a criminal offence by a court and is imprisoned shall not stand as a candidate for election to the Riigikogu.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

Chapter 2

## CAMPAIGNING

### § 5. Campaigning restriction

(1) The time of active election campaigning is deemed to be the time from the last day for the registration of candidates.

(2) Active election campaigning is prohibited on election day.

(3) Election campaigning is prohibited in polling places and premises through which voters enter polling places.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### § 51. Prohibition of political outdoor advertising

Advertising an independent candidate, political party or person who runs as party nominated candidate, electoral coalition or person who runs as candidate in the list of electoral coalition, or their logo or other sign or programme on a building, facility, inner or outer side of public transport vehicle or taxi, or any other political outdoor advertising shall be prohibited during the active election campaigning period.

[RT I 2005, 37, 281, entered into force 10. 07. 2005]

## Chapter 3

## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND POLLING DIVISIONS

### § 6. Electoral districts

Riigikogu elections shall be held in twelve multi-mandate electoral districts:

Electoral district no. 1: the Tallinn city districts of Haabersti, Põhja-Tallinn and Kristiine;

Electoral district no. 2: the Tallinn city districts of Kesklinn, Lasnamäe and Pirita;

Electoral district no. 3: the Tallinn city districts of Mustamäe and Nõmme;

Electoral district no. 4: Harjumaa (except Tallinn) and Raplamaa;

Electoral district no. 5: Hiiumaa, Läänemaa and Saaremaa;

Electoral district no. 6: Lääne-Virumaa;

Electoral district no. 7: Ida-Virumaa;

Electoral district no. 8: Järvamaa and Viljandimaa;

Electoral district no. 9: Jõgevamaa and Tartumaa (except the city of Tartu);

Electoral district no. 10: the city of Tartu;

Electoral district no. 11: Võrumaa, Valgamaa and Põlvamaa;

Electoral district no. 12: Pärnumaa.

### § 7. Distribution of mandates between electoral districts

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall, by a resolution, divide the mandates between the electoral districts as follows:

1) the total number of voters shall be divided by the number 101;

2) the number of voters in an electoral district shall be divided by the number obtained as a result of the calculation specified in clause 1) of this subsection;

3) each electoral district shall be awarded a particular number of mandates in correspondence with the integer of the number obtained as a result of the calculation made according to clause 2) of this subsection;

4) mandates which are not distributed pursuant to clause 3) of this subsection shall be distributed on the basis of the largest-remainder rule, using the fractions of numbers obtained as a result of the calculation specified in clause 2) of this subsection.

(2) The number of voters shall be obtained on the basis of the information held in the Estonian Population Register (hereinafter population register) as at the first day of the month when the elections are called.

(3) The Minister of Internal Affairs shall submit the number of voters by county and, in Tallinn, by city district to the National Electoral Committee within three working days as of the calling of elections.

(4) The National Electoral Committee shall promptly disclose a resolution specified in subsection (1) of this section.

[RT I 2004, 22, 148, entered into force 8. 04. 2004]

### § 8. Formation of polling divisions

(1) In order to hold voting, polling divisions shall be formed in the territory of an electoral district.

(2) Polling divisions shall be formed by a regulation of the rural municipality or city government, which shall set out:

- 1) the numeration of the polling divisions;
- 2) the boundaries of the polling divisions;
- 3) the location of polling places;
- 4) at least one polling division where voters can vote outside the polling division of their residence (subsection 41 (2));
- 5) a polling division where voters can vote if the information on their residence in the rural municipality or city is entered in the population register to the accuracy of the rural municipality or city, or in Tallinn to the accuracy of the city district.

(3) Polling divisions are permanent. Voting shall be held in the same polling divisions for Riigikogu, local government council, European Parliament elections and referendums, unless the rural municipality or city government determines otherwise and amends the regulation specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) A rural municipality or city government may amend a regulation specified in subsection (2) of this section not later than on the fiftieth day before election day or in extraordinary cases later. The rural municipality or city government shall promptly notify the National Electoral Committee and the chief processor of the population register of any such amendments.

(5) A rural municipality or city government shall make the information specified in subsection (2) of this section public before each election.

(6) A county electoral committee shall make the information specified in subsection (2) of this section public during the week before the start of advance polls.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### Chapter 4

### ELECTORAL COMMITTEES

#### **§ 9. Types of electoral committees**

(1) Riigikogu elections are organised by the following electoral committees:

- 1) the National Electoral Committee;
- 2) the county electoral committees;
- 3) division committees.

(2) In the cities of Tallinn and Tartu, the functions of the county electoral committees shall be performed by the city electoral committee.

#### **§ 10. Term of authority of electoral committee**

(1) The term of authority of the National Electoral Committee shall be four years.

(2) The term of authority of county electoral committees and the electoral committees of the cities of Tallinn and Tartu shall be four years.

(3) Division committees shall be formed before regular and extraordinary Riigikogu elections. The authority of a division committee shall continue until the new membership of the committee is appointed.

#### **§ 11. Member of electoral committee**

(1) A person who has the right to vote according to subsections 4(1)-(3) of this Act and whose authority of a member of an electoral committee has not been terminated in the course of the last five years by a decision of the National Electoral Committee may be a member of an electoral committee. A member of an electoral committee shall be proficient in Estonian.

(2) A person may be a member of only one electoral committee.

(3) The authority of a member of an electoral committee shall terminate prematurely

- 1) if it becomes evident that he or she has no right to vote according to subsections 4 (1)-(4) of this Act;
- 2) upon his or her resignation;
- 3) upon his or her death;
- 4) by a decision of the National Electoral Committee.

(4) A person may be released from his or her duties as a member of an electoral committee by a reasoned resolution of the official who or body which appointed him or her either on the initiative of the official or body or on the proposal of the electoral committee.

- (5) The authority of a member of an electoral committee shall be suspended
- 1) if he or she becomes an authorised representative of a political party;
  - 2) if he or she becomes an authorised representative of an independent candidate;
  - 3) if he or she is nominated as a candidate for election to the Riigikogu;
  - 4) by a decision of a county electoral committee or the National Electoral Committee.
- (6) [Repealed - RT I 2006, 30, 231 – entered into force 14. 07. 2006]
- (7) The authority of a member of an electoral committee shall be restored:
- 1) in the cases prescribed in clauses (5) 1) and 2) of this section, as of the date when the election results are announced;
  - 2) in the case prescribed in clause (5) 3) of this section, as of the date following the date when the candidate is not registered or declines to stand as a candidate or as of the date when the election results are announced if the candidate is not elected.
- (8) A member of an electoral committee shall not campaign for or against political parties or candidates.
- (9) A member of an electoral committee shall be independent in the performance of his or her duties. A member of an electoral committee shall operate pursuant to law and the instructions of a superior electoral committee.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 12. Working procedures of electoral committee**

- (1) The work format of an electoral committee shall be a meeting, which shall be convened by the chairman of the committee or, in his or her absence, by the deputy chairman, and in the absence of both the chairman and the deputy chairman, by the youngest member of the electoral committee.
- (2) An electoral committee has a quorum if at least one-half of the members of the committee are present, including the chairman or deputy chairman.
- (3) Minutes shall be taken of the meetings of an electoral committee.
- (4) The meetings of an electoral committee shall be public. Everyone has the right to examine resolutions of an electoral committee and the minutes of committee meetings.
- (5) An electoral committee shall decide issues within its competence by a majority of votes in favour. Any dissenting opinion of a member of the committee shall be recorded in the minutes.
- (6) If the authority of a member of an electoral committee is suspended or terminates, the chairman shall notify the first alternate member thereof who shall assume the obligations of the member of the electoral committee.
- (7) On the basis of a resolution of an electoral committee, alternate members or other persons may participate in election activities.
- (8) If a member of the National Electoral Committee cannot participate in a meeting of the Committee, an alternate member who has all the rights and obligations of a member of the Committee, except the rights and obligations of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, shall substitute for him or her.
- (9) For the time elections are being organised, the employment contract or service relationship of a member or alternate member of an electoral committee or a person assisting the committee shall be suspended on the basis of a proposal made by the electoral committee.

### **§ 13. Assistance to electoral committee**

- (1) State and local government bodies, administrative agencies and other agencies are, within their competence, required to assist electoral committees in the organisation of elections.
- (2) An electoral committee has the right to address state or local government bodies, administrative agencies or other agencies in writing regarding issues concerning the organisation of elections. An answer shall be provided to an inquiry made by an electoral committee within three working days as of the receipt thereof.

### **§ 14. Formation of National Electoral Committee**

- (1) The members of the National Electoral Committee shall be as follows:
  - 1) a judge of a court of first instance appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
  - 2) a judge of a court of appeal appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

- 3) an adviser to the Chancellor of Justice appointed by the Chancellor of Justice;
  - 4) an official of the State Audit Office appointed by the Auditor General;
  - 5) a public prosecutor appointed by the Chief Public Prosecutor;
  - 6) an official of the Chancellery of the Riigikogu appointed by the Secretary General of the Riigikogu;
  - 7) an official of the State Chancellery appointed by the State Secretary.
- (2) The members of the Committee shall be appointed not later than on the tenth day before the authority of the Committee terminates.
- (3) The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the National Electoral Committee shall be elected by the electoral committee from among its members at the first meeting of the committee. The first meeting of the electoral committee shall be convened by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the National Electoral Committee not later than on the seventh day after the beginning of the term of the committee.
- (4) The person who appoints a member of the National Electoral Committee to office shall appoint an alternate member for the member.
- (5) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may appoint a judge as a member of the National Electoral Committee only with the consent of the judge and after considering the opinion of the chief judge of the court.
- (6) Operational and clerical support shall be provided to the National Electoral Committee by the Chancellery of the Riigikogu.
- (7) [The National Electoral Committee shall establish its working procedure.](#)
- (8) National Electoral Committee is entered in the state register of state and local government agencies.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 15. Competence of National Electoral Committee**

- (1) The function of the National Electoral Committee is to verify voting results and election results across the whole country, ensure the uniformity of the conduct of Riigikogu elections, instruct other electoral committees, exercise supervision over their activities and perform other functions arising from law.
- (2) The National Electoral Committee has the right to:
- 1) suspend or terminate the authority of a member of a county electoral committee or a division committee if she or she violates the Riigikogu Election Act, a regulation of the National Electoral Committee or instructions of a superior electoral committee;
  - 2) issue precepts for the elimination of deficiencies of an act of a county electoral committee or division committee or a resolution of a county electoral committee;
  - 3) suspend an act of a county electoral committee or division committee or the validity of a resolution of a county electoral committee;
  - 4) to repeal a resolution of a county electoral committee or to declare an act of a division committee or a county electoral committee unlawful and to issue a precept to the division committee or county electoral committee for elimination of the violation;
  - 5) to declare the voting results in the polling division, the electoral district, the county, the city of Tallinn or Tartu or the state invalid and to hold a repeat vote if the violation significantly affected or could have significantly affected the voting results.
- (3) The National Electoral Committee shall issue regulations in the cases prescribed in subsection (4) of this section. Regulations of the National Electoral Committee shall be signed by the Chairman. Regulations enter into force on the third day after publication in the *Riigi Teataja*.
- (4) The National Electoral Committee shall establish the following by a regulation:
- 1) [the working procedure of the National Electoral Committee](#);
  - 2) the procedure for the nomination and registration of candidates;
  - 3) [the standard format of applications for the registration of candidates, the standard format of the list of candidates in an electoral district, the standard format of the national lists of](#)

candidates, the standard format of applications to stand as a candidate and the standard format of the personal data forms of candidates;

4) the standard format of polling lists;

5) the procedure for voting in foreign states;

6) the procedure for the holding of voting and verification of voting results and election results;

7) the standard format of ballot papers;

8) the standard format of the records of voting results and election results;

9) the status of observer;

10) the procedure for the use of money allocated for the organisation of elections;

11) [Repealed - RT I 2004, 6, 32 - entered into force 14. 02. 2004]

(5) The National Electoral Committee shall adopt a resolution in order to resolve an individual matter within the competence of the National Electoral Committee. The resolution shall be signed by the chairman of the committee. The resolution shall enter into force upon signature thereof.

(6) Regulations, resolutions and instructions of the National Electoral Committee shall be binding on county electoral committees and division committees.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 16. Formation of county electoral committee**

(1) A county electoral committee shall be comprised of up to thirteen members.

(2) A county secretary shall be the chairman of a county electoral committee. The county governor, on the proposal of the county secretary, shall appoint the members of the county electoral committee not later than on the tenth day before the authority of the committee terminates. The county governor, on the proposal of the county secretary, shall also appoint up to four alternate members who, during the term of authority of the committee and in the order specified by the county governor, shall replace the members of the committee whose authority is suspended or terminates.

(3) The chairman of the electoral committees of the cities of Tallinn and Tartu shall be the corresponding city secretary. The city council, on the proposal of the city secretary, shall appoint the members of the city electoral committee not later than on the tenth day before the authority of the committee terminates. The council shall also appoint up to four alternate members who, during the term of authority of the committee and in the order specified by the council, shall replace the members of the committee whose authority is suspended or terminates.

(4) The deputy chairman of a county electoral committee shall be elected by the committee from among its members.

(5) Operational and clerical support shall be provided to county electoral committees and the electoral committees of the cities of Tallinn and Tartu by the county governments and the city governments of Tallinn and Tartu respectively.

#### **§ 17. Competence of county electoral committee**

(1) The function of a county electoral committee is to verify voting results in the county, instruct division committees, exercise supervision over their activities and perform other functions arising from this Act.

(2) A county electoral committee has the right to:

- 1) suspend the authority of a member of a division committee if she or she violates the Riigikogu Election Act, a regulation of the National Electoral Committee or instructions of a superior electoral committee;
- 2) to propose to the National Electoral Committee to terminate the authority of a member of a county electoral committee who has violated Riigikogu Election Act, a regulation of the National Electoral Committee or instructions of a superior electoral committee;
- 3) issue precepts for the elimination of deficiencies of an act of a division committee;
- 4) suspend an act of a division committee;
- 5) declare an act of a division committee unlawful;
- 6) to make a proposal to the National Electoral Committee to declare the voting results in the polling division invalid and to hold a repeat vote in the polling division if the violation

significantly affected or could have significantly affected the voting results.

(3) A county electoral committee shall adopt a resolution in order to resolve an individual matter within the competence of the county electoral committee. The resolution shall be signed by the chairman of the committee. The resolution shall enter into force upon signature thereof.

(4) Resolutions and instructions of county electoral committees shall be binding on division committees.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 18. Formation of division committee**

(1) A division committee shall be comprised of up to nine members.

(2) The chairman and members of a division committee shall be appointed by a resolution of the local government council (hereinafter *council*) on the proposal of the rural municipality or city secretary not later than twenty days prior to election day.

(3) The rural municipality or city secretary shall put forward half of the members of a division committee and the rest of the members shall be put forward by political parties.

(4) Political party participating in the election shall put forward one member candidate for a division committee to the rural municipality or city secretary not later than forty-five days prior to election day.

(5) The consent of the person is required to put him or her forward as a member of a division committee.

(6) If political parties do not put forward candidates or if the number of candidates put forward is smaller than the number of places parties have in the division committee, the council shall appoint the rest of the members on the proposal of the rural municipality or city secretary.

(7) If the number of member candidates for a division committee put forward by parties exceeds the number of places parties have in the division committee the rest of the candidates are appointed alternate members of the division committee.

(8) The council shall also appoint, on the proposal of the rural municipality or city secretary and pursuant to subsection 7 of this section, at least two alternate members who, during the term of authority of the committee and in the order specified by the council, shall replace the members of the committee whose authority is suspended or terminates.

(9) A division committee shall elect a deputy chairman of the committee from among its members.

(10) Operational and clerical support shall be provided to a division committee by the rural municipality government or city government.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 19. Competence of division committee**

The function of a division committee is to conduct voting, verify voting results in the polling division and perform other functions arising from this Act.

Chapter 5

### REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

#### **§ 20. Registration of voters**

(1) Voters shall be registered in the population register.

(2) The procedure for maintenance of the population register shall be prescribed by law.

(3) Voters shall be registered on the basis of the following information entered in the population register:

1) given name and surname;

2) date of birth;

3) personal identification code;

4) information on citizenship;

5) information on divestment of active legal capacity;

6) information on place of residence.

#### **§ 21. Polling card**

(1) The chief processor of the population register shall organise the preparation of polling cards and their sending to voters not later than on the twentieth day before election day. A

polling card shall not be sent to a voter if the information on his or her residence is entered in the population register on the initiative of a local government to the accuracy of the rural municipality or city, or in Tallinn to the accuracy of the city district.

(2) The following shall be entered on a polling card:

- 1) the given name and surname of the voter;
- 2) the year of birth of the voter;
- 3) the residential address of the voter;
- 4) the name of the rural municipality or city and the number of the polling division where the voter is entered in the polling list;
- 5) the time and place of voting on advance polling days and election day.

(3) A voter who has not received a polling card by fifteen days before election day or whose polling card contains incorrect information may file an application with the rural municipality or city secretary for clarification to be given or errors to be corrected. The rural municipality or city secretary shall promptly review the application together with the person who prepared the polling card and shall respond to the application in writing within three working days as of receiving the application.

#### **§ 22. Polling list**

(1) The chief processor of the population register shall organise the preparation and printing of the polling lists for each polling division on the basis of the information held in the population register and shall organise the delivery of polling lists to the division committees not later than by the seventh day before election day. Electronic lists of electors shall be delivered to the National Electoral Committee by the seventh day before election day.

(2) The basis for the preparation of polling lists shall be the information prescribed in subsection 20 (3) of this Act, as at thirty days before election day. Upon preparation of a polling list, any changes made to the information specified in clauses 20 (3) 1)-5) of this Act later than thirty days before election day shall also be taken into account. Any changes made to the residential address less than thirty days before election day shall not be taken into account.

(3) A person shall not be entered in a polling list if he or she has been convicted of a criminal offence by a court pursuant to information held in the punishment register and if, as of thirty days before election day, he or she is to be imprisoned until election day.

(4) A voter shall be entered in the polling list of the polling division in the territory of which his or her residence, as entered in the population register, is located on the thirtieth day before election day. If the information on the residence of a voter is entered in the population register to the accuracy of the rural municipality or city, or in Tallinn to the accuracy of the city district, the voter shall be entered in the polling list of a polling division determined pursuant to clause 8 (2) 5) of this Act.

(5) The following information on each voter shall be entered in the polling list:

- 1) given name and surname;
- 2) personal identification code;
- 3) residential address.

(6) Voters shall be entered in a polling list in alphabetical order according to their surnames.

(7) The person who prepares a polling list shall sign the polling list not later than on the seventh day before election day and the chairman of the division committee shall sign the polling list on election day after the close of voting. The Chairman of the National Electoral Committee shall sign the list of voters who voted electronically after the close of voting.

(8) Polling lists shall be preserved permanently in the archives.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 23. Accessibility of polling lists**

(1) A voter may check the correctness of information entered in the polling list concerning himself or herself.

(2) After election day, the authorised representatives of political parties and independent candidates and their authorised representatives may, in the event of justified interest, examine polling lists to the extent necessary and the lists may also be used for scientific purposes.

#### **§ 24. Checking correctness of information entered in polling list and correction of errors**

(1) If a voter finds that information entered in the polling list concerning himself or herself contains errors, he or she shall submit an application for correction of the errors to the division committee which shall promptly forward it to the rural municipality or city secretary.

(2) The rural municipality or city secretary shall promptly review the application together with the person who prepared the polling list and shall respond to the applicant and inform the division committee of the results of the review.

(3) The division committee shall correct the error in the polling list on the basis of a notice issued by the rural municipality or city secretary.

(4) If it is clear from the documents submitted to a division committee that the information entered in the polling list contains errors, the division committee may correct the errors. The rural municipality or city secretary shall be promptly informed of correction of the errors.

#### **§ 25. Making amendments to polling list**

(1) A polling list shall be amended only if:

1) a person who has not been entered in any polling list but who has the right to participate in voting pursuant to this Act is to be entered in the list;

2) a person who does not have the right to participate in voting is to be deleted from the list.

(2) In order to amend a polling list, a person shall submit an application to be entered in the population register or an application for the amendment of register information which is the basis for the registration of voters to a rural municipality or city secretary. The rural municipality or city secretary shall review the application together with the person who prepared the polling list and shall promptly respond to the person.

(3) If a person is entered in the population register or if register information which is the basis for the registration of voters is amended such that this brings about the entry of the person in a polling list, the rural municipality or city secretary shall promptly notify the division committee thereof.

(4) A division committee shall make an amendment in a polling list on the basis of a notice issued by the rural municipality or city secretary.

(5) If a rural municipality or city secretary denies an application specified in subsection (2) of this section, the applicant may file an action with an administrative court of his or her residence against the act of the rural municipality or city secretary. The action shall be filed with the rural municipality or city secretary who shall forward the action and his or her written explanation to the administrative court of his or her location within twenty-four hours.

(6) The administrative court shall review the action and make a judgment within three working days after the date of receipt of the action.

(7) The administrative court shall make one of the following judgments:

1) to dismiss the complaint;

2) to satisfy the action and issue a precept to the rural municipality or city secretary to arrange that the person be entered in the population register or to amend the register information which is the basis for the registration of voters.

(8) If the administrative court satisfies the action, the person shall be promptly entered in the population register or the information pertaining to him or her shall be amended and the division committee shall be promptly notified thereof.

#### **Chapter 6**

#### **NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES**

#### **§ 26. Party**

(1) Political parties which are entered in the non-profit associations and foundations register not later than on the last day for the nomination of candidates may participate in Riigikogu elections.

(2) The Minister of Justice shall send a list of political parties to the National Electoral Committee within three working days after the elections are called. Political parties which are in the non-profit associations and foundations register on the date the elections are called shall be entered in the list.

(3) Political parties shall participate in Riigikogu elections under their own name.

(4) A political party shall, upon nominating candidates, submit a written notice to the

## National

Electoral Committee which sets out the names, personal identification codes, addresses and telecommunications numbers of the authorised representatives of the political party. A person entitled to represent a political party according to the Non-profit Associations Act (RT I 1996, 42, 811; 1998, 96, 1515; 1999, 10, 155; 23, 355; 67, 658; 2000, 55, 365; 88, 576; 2001, 56, 336; 93, 565) or the articles of association of the political party shall sign the notice. If a political party is not in the list set out in subsection (2) of this section, the political party shall also submit a certificate concerning entry in the non-profit associations and foundations register.

(5) A political party may authorise up to two persons to represent the party.

(6) Within two days after the last day for the nomination of candidates, the Minister of Justice shall send the lists of the members of political parties which are entered in the non-profit associations and foundations register, as at the last day for the nomination of candidates, to the National Electoral Committee in electronic form. The lists shall include the names and personal identification codes of the members and the date on which they became members of the political party.

### **§ 27. Independent candidate**

(1) Every person who has the right to stand as a candidate (subsections 4 (4)-(6)) may nominate himself or herself as an independent candidate and perform the acts necessary for registration. A person who has the right to vote pursuant to subsections 4 (1)-(3) of this Act may nominate another person as an independent candidate and perform the acts necessary for registration on the basis of a corresponding authorisation document.

(2) An independent candidate may be nominated in only one electoral district.

### **§ 28. Candidate documents**

(1) The following are candidate documents:

- 1) an application to stand as a candidate;
- 2) a personal data form of the candidate.

(2) In an application to stand as a candidate, a person shall:

- 1) express his or her desire to stand as a candidate in the list of a political party or to stand as an independent candidate;
- 2) confirm that he or she complies with the requirements of this Act for candidates standing in Riigikogu elections.

(3) The following information shall be entered on the personal data form of a candidate:

- 1) given name and surname;
- 2) personal identification code;
- 3) membership of a political party;
- 4) residential address;
- 5) telecommunications numbers.

(4) The following information may be entered on the personal data form of a candidate:

- 1) place of birth;
- 2) education, area of specialisation, name of educational institution and time of graduation;
- 3) research degree;
- 4) place of employment;
- 5) position.

(5) The National Electoral Committee shall not disclose the personal identification code, residential address or telecommunications numbers of a candidate.

(6) A candidate shall use only his or her given name and surname as his or her name when standing as a candidate.

### **§ 29. List of candidates**

(1) A political party shall prepare:

- 1) the lists of candidates in electoral districts;
- 2) the national list of candidates.

(2) Nominated candidates shall be included in both lists specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The number of candidates in an electoral district may exceed the number of mandates in

the electoral district by up to two candidates.

(4) A person may stand as a candidate in only one electoral district. Standing as a candidate is not related to the electoral district of the residence of the person.

(5) A person may stand as a candidate in the list of candidates of only one political party. A person who is nominated as an independent candidate or who is a member of another political party shall not stand in a list of candidates.

(6) A political party may put forward only one list of candidates for registration in an electoral district.

(7) The order of the candidates in a list shall be specified by the political party.

(8) All the authorised representatives of a political party shall sign the lists of candidates in electoral districts and the national list of candidates.

### **§ 30. Nomination of candidates**

(1) The nomination of candidates shall begin on the working day following the distribution of mandates. A political party may put forward its candidates after submission of a notice specified in subsection 26 (4) of this Act.

(2) The nomination of candidates shall end on the forty-fifth day before election day at 6 p.m.

(3) In order to register candidates, a political party shall submit the following to the National Electoral Committee:

- 1) an application for the registration of candidates;
- 2) the lists of candidates in electoral districts;
- 3) the national list of candidates;
- 4) a copy of the payment order certifying the payment of security;
- 5) the candidate documents of each candidate (subsection 28 (1)).

(4) An independent candidate shall submit the following to the National Electoral Committee:

- 1) an application for registration of the candidate;
- 2) a copy of the payment order certifying the payment of security;
- 3) the candidate documents (subsection 28 (1)).

(5) Before nominating candidates, a political party or an independent candidate shall deposit an amount, the size of which is equal to two minimum salary rates as established by the Government of the Republic for each person nominated, in the bank account of the National Electoral Committee as security.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 31. Acceptance and return of documents**

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall maintain records concerning the nomination of candidates.

(2) The registration documentation of candidates shall be delivered by an authorised representative of the political party. The registration documentation of an independent candidate shall be delivered by the independent candidate or his or her authorised representative.

(3) If not all the required documents are submitted to the National Electoral Committee or if the documents contain errors or omissions or they are not in conformity with the standard format established by the National Electoral Committee, the person who accepts documents shall propose to the submitter of the documents that the required documents or information be submitted, that documents conforming with the standard format be submitted or that the errors

be corrected. All submitted documents shall be returned.

(4) If a political party or an independent candidate wishes to make amendments to the registration documentation of candidates, the National Electoral Committee shall return all the

submitted documents and, upon re-submission thereof, the documents shall be deemed to have been submitted for the first time.

(5) If a candidate is deleted from the list of nominated candidates on the basis of a personal application, the National Electoral Committee shall return the candidate documents to him or her and inform an authorised representative of the political party or independent candidate

thereof. The political party need not re-submit the registration documentation of candidates.

(6) If a political party or an independent candidate submits documents before 6 p.m. on the forty-fifth day before election day and it becomes evident that not all the required documents have been submitted, that the documents contain omissions or are not in conformity with the standard format established by the National Electoral Committee, or that the submitted documents contain errors which cannot be corrected immediately, the documents shall be accepted. The person who accepts the documents shall propose to the submitter of the documents that the missing documents or information be submitted, that documents conforming to the standard format established by the National Electoral Committee be submitted or that the errors be corrected. In such case, the political party or independent candidate shall perform the required acts not later than before 6 p.m. on the forty-third day before election day.

### **§ 32. Registration of candidates**

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall, after expiry of the term for the nomination of candidates but not later than on the fortieth day before election day, register all persons nominated in accordance with the requirements of this Act in the order of their nomination.

(2) Each candidate shall be assigned a registration number. Registration numbers shall begin at 101 and shall be assigned to the candidates according to the lists of political parties in an electoral district. Independent candidates shall be assigned registration numbers after the candidates of political parties have been assigned numbers. The sequence of assigning numbers between political parties and independent candidates shall be determined by way of drawing lots.

(3) If, within the term specified in subsection 31 (6) of this Act, a political party or an independent candidate fails to perform the acts required by the National Electoral Committee, the National Electoral Committee shall not register:

1) any of the candidates nominated by the political party if documents specified in clauses 30 (3) 1), 2), 3) or 4) of this Act are missing or if the documents contain errors or are not in conformity with the standard format;

2) a candidate if documents or information concerning him or her are missing or if their documents contain errors or are not in conformity with the standard format.

(4) The National Electoral Committee shall adopt a reasoned resolution on failure to register a candidate.

(5) The National Electoral Committee shall revoke a resolution to register a candidate if:

1) the candidate declines to stand as a candidate on the basis of a written application which may be submitted by him or her within three days after registration;

2) the candidate dies;

3) it is established that the candidate does not comply with the requirements prescribed in subsections 4 (4)-(6) and 29 (5) of this Act.

(6) The National Electoral Committee shall register a person who was not registered previously after the term specified in subsection (1) of this section if the Committee finds that the person complies with the requirements prescribed in subsections 4 (4)-(6) and 29 (5) of this Act or if the resolution of the National Electoral Committee not to register the candidate is revoked by a judgment of the Supreme Court.

(7) A resolution on registration may be revoked and a person who was not registered may be registered not later than on the day before the start of advance polls.

[RT I 2004, 71, 501, entered into force 29. 10. 2004]

### **§ 33. Consolidated list of candidates in electoral district**

(1) After the registration of candidates, the National Electoral Committee shall prepare a consolidated list of candidates in each electoral district.

(2) Candidates shall be entered in the consolidated list of candidates in an electoral district by the lists of candidates of political parties in the electoral district in the order of their registration numbers. The name of the political party which puts forward the list shall be indicated at the top of the list of candidates in the electoral district. Independent candidates shall be entered in the consolidated list of candidates in an electoral district in the order of their registration numbers after the lists of candidates of political parties in the electoral

district.

(3) The registration number and name of each candidate shall be set out in the consolidated list of candidates in an electoral district. If several candidates with the same name stand in one electoral district, their dates of birth shall also be set out in the consolidated list.

(4) The National Electoral Committee shall inform the electoral committees, representations organising voting in foreign states and masters of ships of all corrections and amendments to consolidated lists of candidates in electoral districts, and they shall make the corresponding corrections or amendments to the consolidated lists of candidates in the electoral districts. The consolidated lists of candidates shall not be amended after the start of advance polls.

[RT I 2004, 71, 501, entered into force 29. 10. 2004]

Chapter 7

## VOTING PROCEDURE

### **§34. Polling place**

(1) Voting in a polling division shall be held at a polling place designated by the rural municipality or city government. Different polling places may be designated for voting on election day and on advance polling days.

(2) A polling place shall have places for the distribution of ballot papers, voting booths and a ballot box. In a polling division where voters can vote outside the polling division of their residence, the polling place shall have a separate voting booth and ballot box for voters voting outside the polling division of their residence during advance polls. The consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district and the national lists of candidates shall be posted in the polling place.

(3) Order in a polling place shall be maintained by the division committee. Lawful oral orders given by members of the division committee are mandatory for all persons in the polling place.

### **§ 35. Voting booth**

(1) A voting booth shall enable voting to be secret.

(2) There shall be a table and a writing instrument in a voting booth. The consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district shall be placed on the wall of the voting booth, except the booth designated for electors voting outside the polling division of their residence.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 36. Ballot box**

(1) Before voting opens, the division committee shall inspect and seal the ballot box. Ballot boxes sealed before the start of advance polls shall be used for advance polls only.

(2) The opening of a ballot box shall be covered. It shall be opened only to deposit a ballot paper in the box.

(3) After the close of voting on advance polling days, the division committee shall seal the opening of the ballot box used for advance polls.

### **§ 37. Ballot paper**

(1) [The standard format of ballot papers shall be established by the National Electoral Committee.](#)

(2) The National Electoral Committee shall organise the preparation of ballot papers and their delivery to the division committees.

(3) After the receipt of ballot papers, the division committee shall affix the seal of the division committee to the ballot papers. The National Electoral Committee shall affix its seal to ballot papers used for voting in foreign states and on board ships.

### **§ 38. Time of voting**

(1) Voting on election day shall open at 9 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

(2) Advance polls shall be held

1) from the thirteenth day to the ninth day before election day, in a polling division designated by the county electoral committee. Voting shall open at 12.00 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.;

2) from the sixth day to the fourth day before election day in all polling divisions. Voting shall open at 12.00 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.;

3) from the sixth day to the fourth day before election day by electronic means. Voting opens on the sixth day before the day of election at 9.00 a.m. and lasts on 24-hour basis until the

voting closes on the fourth day before the election day at 8.00 p.m.

(3) Home voting shall be held on election day in the cases prescribed in this Act.

(4) Voting in custodial institutions shall be held in on the days prescribed in clause (2) 2) of this section in the cases prescribed in this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 39. Voting**

(1) A voter shall vote in the polling division where he or she is entered in the polling list, except in the cases prescribed in §§ 41-45 and 47 and in Chapter 8 of this Act.

(2) In order to obtain a ballot paper, a voter shall present an identity document to the division committee. The voter shall sign the polling list against receipt of the ballot paper.

(3) The voter shall complete the ballot paper in a voting booth.

(4) The voter shall write the registration number of the candidate in the electoral district of his or her residence for whom he or she wishes to vote in the designated space on the ballot paper.

(5) The voter shall complete the ballot paper himself or herself. If he or she is unable to complete the ballot paper himself or herself due to a physical disability, another voter, but not a candidate in the election district of his or her residence, may do so at his or her request and in his or her presence.

(6) Voters are not allowed to take ballot papers outside the polling place. If a voter spoils the ballot paper, he or she has the right to be given a new ballot paper by the division committee. The voter shall return the spoiled or unused ballot paper to the division committee.

(7) After completing the ballot paper, the voter shall fold the ballot paper and hand it to a member of the division committee who shall affix the seal of the division committee to the outside of the folded ballot paper.

(8) The voter shall deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box himself or herself. If he or she is unable to deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box himself or herself due to a physical disability, another voter may do so at his or her request and in his or her presence.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 40. Advance polls**

(1) Advance polls shall be held pursuant to the procedure prescribed in § 39 of this Act.

(2) A voter entered in the polling list who has attained 18 years of age by the day of the advance polls has the right to vote at the advance polls.

(3) Advance polls shall be organised by at least three members of the division committee.

(4) A member of the division committee shall mark the date of voting in the polling list concerning each voter who has voted.

(5) The division committee shall keep the ballot box and voting documents on advance polling days and the following days such that only members of the division committee have access to them.

### **§ 41. Specifications for advance polls held outside polling division of residence**

(1) On advance polling days (subsection 38 (2)), voters may vote outside the polling division of their residence in a polling division designated by the county electoral committee, or the rural municipality or city government.

(2) A division committee designated by the rural municipality or city government shall organise voting outside the polling division of residence. The rural municipality or city government may designate a division committee which, in addition to advance polls, organises voting only at the location of a voter (§ 43) or only in custodial institutions (§ 45).

(3) A county electoral committee, except the Harjumaa County Electoral Committee and the Tartumaa County Electoral Committee shall designate, not later than on the forty-fifth day before election day, at least one polling division located in a county town, where voters may vote outside the polling division of their residence on the days prescribed in clause 38 (2) 1) of this Act. In the city of Tallinn or Tartu, such polling division shall be designated by the city electoral committee. A county electoral committee shall publish its decision during the week before the start of advance polls.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### **§ 42. Advance polls held in polling places outside polling division of residence**

- (1) A voter who wishes to vote in a polling place outside the polling division of his or her residence shall present an identity document to a member of the division committee and the voter shall be entered in the list of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence.
- (2) The member of the division committee shall issue a ballot paper, two envelopes and the consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district of the residence of the voter to the voter.

The voter shall sign the list of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence against the receipt of a ballot paper.

- (3) The voter shall complete the ballot paper pursuant to the provisions of subsections 39 (3)-(6) of this Act.

- (4) The voter shall place the ballot paper in one of the envelopes given by the member of the division committee. The voter shall place the envelope in the other envelope given by a member of the division committee. The voter or the member of the division committee shall write the name, personal identification code and residential address of the voter on the outer envelope. The voter shall deposit the envelope in the ballot box prescribed for the ballot papers of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence.

#### **§ 43. Advance polls held outside polling division of residence at location of voter**

- (1) If a voter who wishes to vote outside the polling division of his or her residence is unable to vote at a polling place located in a polling division due to his or her state of health or for another good reason, he or she may, until 4 p.m. on the last day of advance polling, submit a written application to vote at his or her location to the rural municipality or city government of his or her location or to a division committee prescribed in subsection 41 (2) of this Act. The division committee shall register the application. The rural municipality or city government shall register the application and forward it to the corresponding division committee.

- (2) Voting shall be organised by at least two members of the division committee pursuant to the provisions of subsections 39 (4)-(6) and 42 (1), (2) and (4) of this Act.

#### **§ 44. Electronic voting**

- (1) A voter may vote electronically on the webpage of the National Electoral Committee on days prescribed in clause 38(2)3). A voter shall vote himself or herself.

- (2) A voter shall identify himself or herself on the basis of a certificate on identity documents permitting digital authentication.

- (3) After identification of the voter, the consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district of the residence of the voter shall be displayed to the voter on the webpage.

- (4) The voter shall mark the name of the candidate in favour of whom he or she wishes to vote

in the electoral district of his or her residence, and shall confirm the vote by giving a digital signature with the aid of a certificate permitting digital signing on the identity document.

- (5) A notice that the vote has been accepted shall be displayed to the voter on the webpage.

- (6) The voter may change his or her electronically given vote:

- 1) by voting again electronically at the time prescribed in clause 38(2)3) of this Act;

- 2) by voting with a ballot paper from the sixth to the fourth day before election day pursuant to the procedure provided for in §§ 40-43, 45 or 47 of this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 45. Voting in custodial institutions**

- (1) Voting in custodial institutions shall be held on the days prescribed in clause 38 (2) 2) of this Act.

- (2) The administration of a custodial institution shall submit an application for voting to be held to the division committee prescribed in subsection 41 (2) of this Act.

- (3) Voting shall be organised by at least two members of the division committee pursuant to the provisions of subsections 39 (4)-(6) and 42 (1), (2) and (4) of this Act.

- (4) Upon verification of the voting results, the votes of voters who voted at advance polls in a custodial institution shall be taken into account pursuant to the provisions of § 48 of this Act.

[RT I 2004, 6, 32, entered into force 14. 02. 2004]

#### **§ 46. Home voting**

(1) If a voter is unable to vote at a polling place due to his or her state of health or for another good reason, he or she may apply to vote at home.

(2) In order to vote at home, a voter shall submit a written application to the rural municipality or city government or to the division committee of his or her residence by 4 p.m. on election day and the division committee shall register the application. If the application is submitted to the rural municipality or city government, the rural municipality or city government shall register the application and forward it to the appropriate division committee.

(3) Home voting shall be held by at least two members of the division committee. The members are appointed based on the principle that they do not belong to the same party or they have not been put forward to be members of a division committee by the same party. Home voting shall be organised pursuant to the provisions of subsections 39 (1), (2), (4), (5), (6) and (8) of this Act.

(4) A home voter shall sign the list of home voters against the receipt of a ballot paper.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 47. Voting in Estonia by voters residing in foreign states**

(1) A voter residing in a foreign state who has been entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state and who has not voted pursuant to the procedure provided for in Chapter 8 may vote during advance polls in any polling division designated pursuant to the procedure provided for in the first sentence of subsection 41 (2) or subsection 41 (3) of this Act.

(2) In order to obtain a ballot paper, a voter shall present an identity document to the division committee and shall be entered in the list of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence.

(3) A member of the division committee shall issue a ballot paper, two envelopes and the consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district of the residence of the voter to the voter.

The voter shall sign the list of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence against the receipt of a ballot paper.

(4) The voter shall complete the ballot paper pursuant to the provisions of subsections 39 (3)-(6) of this Act.

(5) The voter shall place the ballot paper in one of the envelopes given by the member of the division committee. The voter shall place the envelope in the other envelope given by a member of the division committee. The voter or the member of the division committee shall write the name, personal identification code, residential address and number of the electoral district of the voter on the outer envelope. The voter shall deposit the envelope in the ballot box prescribed for the ballot papers of voters voting outside the polling division of their residence.

(6) Upon the verification of voting results, votes cast pursuant to the procedure prescribed in subsection (1) of this section shall be taken into account pursuant to the provisions of subsections 48 (1) and (2) and subsections 55 (2)-(6) of this Act.

[RT I 2004, 6, 32, entered into force 14. 02. 2004]

#### **§ 48. Calculation of votes cast during advance polls outside polling division of residence**

(1) A division committee shall pack the envelopes with the ballot papers of electors who voted outside the polling division of their residence by the counties, and by the cities of Tallinn and Tartu, and shall forward the envelopes to the county electoral committee of their location.

(2) The county electoral committee shall forward the envelopes with ballot papers specified in subsection (1) of this section to the electoral committees of the appropriate counties through the National Electoral Committee not later than on the second day before election day.

(3) A county electoral committee shall forward the envelopes with ballot papers received from other county electoral committees pursuant to the procedure provided for in subsection (2) of this section to the corresponding division committees not later than on the day preceding election day.

(4) After receipt of the envelopes with ballot papers pursuant to the procedure provided for in

subsection (3) of this section, the division committees shall check whether a voter has been entered in the polling list of the polling division and whether he or she has not voted in the polling division of his or her residence. At least three members of the division committee shall be present during the verification.

(5) If a voter has not been entered in the polling list of the polling division or has voted outside the polling division of his or her residence several times, the division committee shall reject all envelopes with ballot papers of the voter.

(6) If a voter has voted once, a member of the division committee shall make a notation in the polling list concerning voting at the advance polls.

(7) After performing the acts prescribed in subsections (5) - (6) of this Article, the division committee shall open the outer envelopes, deposit the inner envelopes with ballot papers in the ballot box used at the advance polls and seal the opening of the ballot box again.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 481. Counting of electronically given votes**

(1) In case of several electronically given vote (subsection 44(6)), the last vote shall be taken into account.

(2) After the close of electronic voting, the National Electoral Committee shall prepare a list of persons who voted electronically by polling divisions and shall forward the list to the county electoral committees not later than on the second day before the day of the referendum. A county electoral committee shall forward the list to division committees not later than on the day preceding the election day.

(3) If a voter has voted electronically, a member of the division committee shall make a notation in the polling list concerning voting electronically.

(4) If a voter has voted electronically as well as with a ballot paper, the ballot paper of the voter shall be taken into account. The division committee shall send an appropriate communication to the National Electoral Committee, whereby the National Electoral Committee shall annul the electronically given vote of the voter.

(5) If a voter has voted several times outside the polling division of his or her residence, and electronically, all envelopes with ballot papers of the voter as well as the electronically given vote shall be rejected. The division committee shall send an appropriate communication to the National Electoral Committee, whereby the National Electoral Committee shall annul the electronically given vote of the voter.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

### Chapter 8

#### VOTING IN FOREIGN STATE

##### **§ 49. Preparation of voting**

(1) Voting in a foreign state for voters permanently residing in the foreign state and voters temporarily staying there shall be organised by representations of Estonia.

(2) An honorary consulate, the honorary consul of which is an Estonian citizen, may be designated to organise voting by an order of the Government of the Republic. In such case, the honorary consulate shall perform the acts prescribed in this Chapter.

(3) Voting shall be organised by the head of a representation or an official designated by him or her. In the case prescribed in subsection (2) of this section, voting shall be organised by an honorary consul or a person designated by him or her. The person who organises voting must be a person who has the right to vote pursuant to subsections 4 (1) and (2) of this Act.

(4) The chief processor of the population register shall organise the forwarding of lists of voters permanently residing in foreign states to the representations. The following information

shall be entered in the list of voters:

- 1) given name and surname;
- 2) personal identification code;
- 3) residential address, if known;
- 4) the number of the electoral district of which the consolidated list of candidates is sent to the voter.

(5) If the address of a voter permanently residing in a foreign state or a voter temporarily staying there is known, the representation shall send him or her a polling card by post or electronic mail not later than on the eighty-fifth day before election day.

(6) The following shall be entered on a polling card:

- 1) the given name and surname of the voter;
- 2) the date of birth of the voter;
- 3) the address of the voter;
- 4) the address of the representation;
- 5) the procedure for submitting an application to vote by post, for voting by post and for voting at the representation;
- 6) the due date for the receipt by the representation of applications to vote by post;
- 7) the due date for the receipt by the representation of ballot papers sent by post;
- 8) the time of voting at the representation;
- 9) the time of electronic voting.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 50. Submission of application to vote**

(1) If a voter wishes to vote by post, he or she shall send a corresponding application to the Estonian representation in the country of his or her habitual residence. If the country of habitual residence of a voter does not have a representation of Estonia, the voter shall send the application to the nearest representation of Estonia.

(2) A voter who has been entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall:

- 1) append a copy of the page of his or her identity document containing personal data to the application;
- 2) indicate in the application his or her residential address in the foreign state.

(3) A voter who has not been entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall:

- 1) append copies of documents which certify his or her identity and that he or she has the right to vote in accordance with subsections 4(1) and (2) of this Act;
- 2) indicate his or her residential address in the foreign state;
- 3) indicate his or her last residence in Estonia (the county, the city district in Tallinn, or the city of Tartu). If a voter permanently residing in a foreign state has not had a residence in Estonia, he or she shall indicate the last residence of his or her parents or grandparents in Estonia.

(4) A voter temporarily staying in a foreign state shall indicate his or her residential address in Estonia in the application in addition to the information prescribed in clauses (2) 1) and 2) of this section.

(5) Applications shall have been received by the representation not later than on the thirtieth day before election day.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 51. Sending of election documents to voter**

(1) At the earliest possible opportunity, a representation shall send the following to voters who sent their applications in due time and who comply with the requirements of this Act:

- 1) a ballot paper;
- 2) the consolidated list of candidates in the electoral district pursuant to the information in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state or in accordance with clause 50 (3) 3) or subsection 50 (4) of this Act;
- 3) two envelopes.

(2) If a voter permanently residing in a foreign state has indicated Tallinn as his or her last residence or the last residence of his or her parents or grandparents but has not specified the city district, the consolidated list of candidates in electoral district no. 1 shall be sent to the voter.

(3) If a voter permanently residing in a foreign state has indicated Petseri county as his or her last residence or the last residence of his or her parents or grandparents, the consolidated list of candidates in electoral district no. 11 shall be sent to the voter.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

**§ 52. Voting by post**

- (1) A voter shall complete a ballot paper pursuant to the provisions of this Act. The voter shall place the completed ballot paper in one of the envelopes sent by the representation. The voter shall place this envelope in the other envelope sent by the representation. The voter shall write his or her name and personal identification code and the number of the electoral district on the outer envelope. A voter temporarily staying in a foreign state shall also write his or her residential address in Estonia on the outer envelope. Thereafter the voter shall send the ballot paper to the representation.
- (2) Ballot papers sent by post shall have been received by the representation on the day determined by the representation, which shall be determined such that the National Electoral Committee will receive the ballot papers not later than on the fourth day before election day.
- (3) A representation shall prepare a list of voters who voted by post and shall forward the list to the National Electoral Committee such that the National Electoral Committee will receive the list not later than on the fourth day before election day.
- (4) Upon voting by post, the expenses relating to the acts specified in subsection 50 (1) of this Act and subsection (1) of this section shall be borne by the voter.

**§ 53. Electronic voting in foreign states**

- (1) A voter who has been entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state or who is temporarily staying in a foreign state may vote on the webpage of the National Electoral Committee.
- (2) Electronic voting shall be held at the time prescribed in subsection 38 (2)3) of this Act and pursuant to the procedure prescribed in § 44 of this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

**§ 54. Voting at representation**

- (1) If a voter does not submit an application to vote by post within the term provided for in subsection 50 (5) of this Act or does not send a ballot paper to the representation by the due date provided for in subsection 52 (2) of this Act, he or she may vote at the representation at a time determined by the representation.
- (2) A representation shall allow voting at the representation on at least two days in the period between fifteen days and ten days before election day.
- (3) At a representation, a voter shall complete a ballot paper pursuant to the provisions of this Act. Thereafter the voter shall place the completed ballot paper in an envelope. The voter shall place this envelope in another envelope. The voter or the person organising the voting shall write the name and personal identification code and the number of the electoral district of the voter on the outer envelope. A voter temporarily staying in a foreign state shall also write his or her residential address in Estonia on the outer envelope.
- (4) A voter voting at a representation shall sign the list of voters voting at the representation against the receipt of a ballot paper.

**§ 55. Taking ballot papers into account upon verification of voting results**

- (1) The ballot papers received by a representation shall be taken into account in the verification of voting results if they are received by the National Electoral Committee not later than on the fourth day before election day.
- (2) When the National Electoral Committee has received the envelopes with ballot papers of voters permanently residing in a foreign state, the Committee shall verify that the voters permanently residing in a foreign state have not voted several times and that the voters permanently residing in a foreign state who voted in Estonia are entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state.
- (3) If a voter permanently residing in a foreign state has voted several times or has not been entered in the list of voters permanently residing in a foreign state, the National Electoral Committee shall not take into account any of the envelopes with ballot papers of the voter. If a voter has voted electronically as well as with a ballot paper, the ballot paper of the voter shall be taken into account. If a voter has voted several times with a ballot paper and

electronically, none of the envelopes with ballot papers of the voter as well as the electronically given vote shall be taken into account.

(4) The National Electoral Committee shall designate a county electoral committee for each electoral district which shall verify the voting results of voters permanently residing in a foreign state.

(5) The National Electoral Committee shall forward the ballot papers of voters permanently residing in a foreign state to the electoral committee designated in subsection (4) of this section not later than on the second day before election day.

(6) Envelopes with the ballot papers of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall remain in the county electoral committee and shall be opened on election day in order to verify the voting results.

(7) Not later than on the day before election day, the National Electoral Committee shall forward the envelopes with the ballot papers of voters temporarily staying in a foreign state to the corresponding division committees where the ballots are to be taken into account when the voting results are being verified pursuant to the provisions of subsections 48 (4)-(7) of this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 56. Voting on board ship flying national flag of Estonia and located in international waters or waters of foreign state**

(1) If a ship flying the national flag of the Republic of Estonia which has voters on board is located in international waters or waters of a foreign state on advance polling days or election day, the master of the ship may submit an application to the National Electoral Committee to hold voting on board the ship.

(2) The master of a ship shall organise voting on board the ship pursuant to the provisions of this Act. A voter shall vote on board a ship pursuant to the provisions of subsections 42 (3) and (4) of this Act. Upon verification of the voting results, votes cast on board a ship shall be taken into account pursuant to the provisions of subsections 55 (1) and (7) and subsections 48 (4)-(7) of this Act.

Chapter 9

### **VERIFICATION OF VOTING RESULTS AND ELECTION RESULTS**

#### **§ 57. Verification of voting results in division committees**

(1) A division committee shall open the ballot boxes used on election day after the close of voting. More than one-half of the members of the division committee shall be present at the opening.

(2) Before the ballot boxes are opened, the division committee shall count and cancel all ballot papers that were not issued to voters and all spoiled ballot papers returned by voters. Ballot papers shall be cancelled by cutting off a corner of the ballot paper.

(3) Before the ballot boxes are opened, the division committee shall use the polling list to verify the number of voters and the signatures given in receipt of a ballot paper and notations made to verify the number of those who participated in the voting and immediately forward them to the National Electoral Committee. Solely notations concerning electors who voted outside the polling division of their residence, electronically or at home made in the polling list shall be considered. The number of voters shall be entered in a standard format record.

(4) When a ballot box is opened, the condition of the impression of the seal on the box shall be inspected.

(5) The seal of the division committee shall be affixed to the outside of ballot papers of home voters, and the ballot papers shall be placed among the ballot papers of voters who voted at the polling place.

(6) The seal of the division committee shall be affixed to the outside of ballot papers of voters who voted outside the polling division of their residence, and together with the ballot papers of persons who voted at the advance polls these ballot papers shall be placed, upon the compilation of the summary provided for in subsection 58 (4), among the ballot papers of persons who voted on election day.

(7) The division committee shall verify the number of ballot papers extracted from the boxes

including the number of invalid ballot papers and the number of votes cast for candidates and political parties, and shall enter these numbers in a standard format record.

(8) A ballot paper shall be deemed to be invalid if:

- 1) it does not bear two seals of the division committee;
- 2) no candidate registration number or more than one candidate registration number has been written on the ballot paper,
- 3) the candidate whose number is written on the ballot paper is not standing in the electoral district;
- 4) the candidate registration number written on the ballot paper has been changed;
- 5) the candidate registration number written on the ballot paper is illegible.

(9) If no candidate registration number has been written on a ballot paper but the will of the voter is clear and unambiguous, the ballot paper shall be deemed to be valid.

(10) A standard format record shall be prepared concerning the verification of the voting results. The chairman of the committee shall sign the record. The date and time of preparation of the record shall be indicated therein.

(11) After verification of the voting results, valid ballot papers shall be packed by candidate. Invalid ballot papers, ballot papers which were not issued to voters and spoiled ballot papers returned by voters shall be packed separately. The polling division from which the ballot papers originate and the type and number of ballot papers in the pack shall be marked on the pack. The chairman of the division committee shall sign the label.

(12) Ballot papers, polling lists, records concerning voting results and any dissenting opinions of members of the committee shall be promptly delivered to the county electoral committee.

(13) Voting results shall be verified in a division committee in public.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 58. Counting of votes cast at advance polls**

(1) A division committee shall open the ballot box used for advance polls to count the votes after 7 p.m. on election day. At least three members or alternate members of the committee shall be present at the opening.

(2) The votes cast in the advance polls shall be counted in a room separate from the polling place.

(3) The inner envelopes which contain the ballot papers of voters who voted outside the polling division of their residence shall be opened, and the ballots shall be taken into account when summaries are made concerning the results of the advance polls and they shall be kept separately from other ballot papers until the seal of the division committee is fixed to them.

(4) A summary, signed by the chairman of the committee, shall be prepared concerning the results of the advance polls. The results of the advance polls shall be promptly delivered to the

county electoral committee or the National Electoral Committee.

(5) The results of the advance polls shall not be disclosed before 8 p.m.

(6) The counting of votes cast at the advance polls in a polling division shall be public. Persons who are present at the counting of votes shall follow any oral orders given by members of the division committee. Persons who are present at the counting of votes shall not bring any means of communication into the room where the votes are counted or leave the room before 8 p.m.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 59. Verification of voting results of voters permanently residing in foreign state**

(1) The county electoral committee designated in subsection 55 (4) of this Act shall begin counting the votes cast by voters permanently residing in a foreign state at 7 p.m. on election day. At least three members of the county electoral committee shall be present at the opening of the envelopes, including the chairman or deputy chairman of the committee.

(2) The inner envelopes which contain the ballot papers of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall be opened and a seal shall be affixed to the outside of the ballot papers.

(3) On the basis of the ballot papers, the county electoral committee shall verify the number of

voters permanently residing in a foreign state who participated in the voting, the number of

invalid ballot papers and the number of votes cast for candidates and political parties. A ballot paper shall be declared invalid pursuant to the provisions of subsections 57 (8) and (9) of this Act.

(4) The voting results of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall not be disclosed before 8 p.m.

(5) A standard format record shall be prepared concerning verification of the voting results of voters permanently residing in a foreign state. The chairman of the committee shall sign the record. The date and time of preparation of the record shall be indicated therein.

(6) The voting results of voters permanently residing in a foreign state shall be verified in public, taking into account the restrictions prescribed in subsection 58 (6) of this Act.

#### **§ 60. Verification of voting results in county electoral committees**

(1) On the basis of the records received from the division committees, the county electoral committees shall verify the number of voters entered in the lists, the number of voters who were given a ballot paper, the number of ballot paper extracted from the polling boxes including the number of invalid ballot papers and the number of votes cast for candidates and political parties. The result obtained shall be checked by recounting the ballot papers.

(2) If the numbers obtained by recounting the ballot papers are different from the numbers in the records of a division committee, the county electoral committee shall set out the differences and the circumstances which caused such differences in the appendix to the record. The records of the division committee shall not be amended. The county electoral committee shall adopt a decision concerning the final voting results.

(3) A county electoral committee shall prepare a record concerning voting results in the county, in each electoral district in Tallinn and in the city of Tartu which shall be signed by the chairman of the committee. The date and time of preparation of the record shall be indicated therein.

(4) Voting results shall be verified in a county electoral committee in public.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 601. Counting of electronically given votes**

(1) National Electoral Committee shall verify the results of electronic voting after 7 p.m. on election day.

(2) At least one-half of the members of the National Electoral Committee, including the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Committee shall be present at the counting of votes.

(3) Voting results shall be verified in the National Electoral Committee in public, taking into account the restrictions provided for in subsection 58 (6) of this Act.

(4) The results of voting shall not be disclosed before 8 p.m.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

#### **§ 61. Verification of voting results in National Electoral Committee**

(1) On the basis of the records concerning the voting results of voters in counties and voters permanently residing in a foreign state which are received from the county electoral committees and on the basis of the voting results of voters who voted electronically, the National Electoral Committee shall, for each electoral district, verify the number of voters entered in the polling lists, the number of voters who were given a ballot paper, the number of voters who participated in voting, the number of invalid ballot papers and the number of votes cast for candidates and political parties.

(2) The National Electoral Committee shall prepare a record concerning the voting results which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee. The date and time of preparation of the record shall be indicated therein.

(3) [Repealed - RT I 2006, 30, 231 – entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

(4) The verification of voting results in the National Electoral Committee shall be public.

#### **§ 62. Verification of election results**

(1) A simple quota shall be calculated for each electoral district, which shall be obtained by dividing the number of valid votes cast in the electoral district by the number of mandates in the district.

(2) A candidate for whom the number of votes cast exceeds or equals the simple quota is elected.

(3) In the lists of candidates of those political parties in an electoral district whose candidates receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally, the candidates shall be ranked according to the number of votes cast for each candidate. The votes cast for candidates standing in the list of candidates of the same political party in an electoral district shall be totalled. A list shall receive as many mandates as the number of times the number of votes it receives in the electoral district exceeds the simple quota. Mandates obtained pursuant to subsection (2) of this section are also deemed to be mandates of a political party. The number of mandates of a political party shall be increased by one if the remaining votes total at least 75 per cent of the simple quota. A political party shall also be given a mandate if the number of votes is at least 75 per cent of the simple quota. The candidates at the top of the list for whom the number of votes cast is at least 10 per cent of the simple quota are elected. If at least two candidates receive an equal number of votes, the candidate who is further towards the top of the national list of candidates shall be elected.

(4) Mandates which are not distributed in electoral districts on the basis of a simple quota shall be distributed as compensation mandates between the political parties whose candidates receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally.

(5) The compensation mandates shall be divided according to the d'Hondt distribution method with the distribution series of 1, 20.9, 30.9, 40.9, etc. In calculating the comparative figure of each party, as many first elements of the series shall be omitted as the number of mandates obtained by the party in the electoral districts. If the comparative figures of at least two political parties are equal, the political party whose candidates are further towards the bottom of the general list of candidates in the electoral district shall be given the mandate.

(6) The candidate who is further towards the top of the list and for whom the number of votes cast is at least 5 per cent of the simple quota shall be given a compensation mandate in the national list of candidates. Upon the distribution of mandates, the candidates who were elected in electoral districts shall be omitted.

(7) If, upon the distribution of compensation mandates, it becomes evident that there are not enough candidates in the national list of candidates for whom the number of votes cast is at least 5 per cent of the simple quota of his or her electoral district, the candidate of the same list who has received the highest percentage of votes of the simple quota of his or her

electoral district shall be given a compensation mandate. In the event of an equal number of votes, the candidate who is further towards the top of the submitted list shall be given a compensation mandate.

(8) No political party shall be given more mandates than there are candidates in its list.

(9) If a resolution to register a candidate of a political party is revoked (subsection 32 (5)), the votes cast for him or her in a foreign state shall be retained by that political party. The votes of a candidate who dies after the start of advance polls shall also be retained by the political party. If a resolution to register an independent candidate is revoked or if he or she dies, the votes cast for him or her shall not be taken into account in the verification of election results.

(10) The National Electoral Committee shall prepare a record concerning the election results which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee. The date and time of preparation of the record shall be indicated therein.

(11) Election results shall be verified in the National Electoral Committee in public.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

## Chapter 10

### SPECIFICATIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY RIIGIKOGU ELECTIONS

#### **§ 63. Specifications for extraordinary Riigikogu elections**

(1) Extraordinary Riigikogu elections shall be held in accordance with this Act, taking into account the specifications provided for in this Chapter.

(2) The National Electoral Committee shall establish the following terms for acts concerning extraordinary elections to the Riigikogu:

1) submission of the number of Estonian citizens with the right to vote (subsection 7 (3));

2) amendment of the division of polling divisions (subsections 8 (3) and (4));

3) formation of division committees (§ 18);

- 4) sending of polling cards (§ 21);
- 5) submission of the list of political parties (subsection 26 (2));
- 6) nomination of candidates (§ 30);
- 7) registration of candidates (§ 32);
- 71) time of advance polls (subsection 38 (2));
- 8) sending of polling cards to voters temporarily residing in a foreign state (subsection 49 (5));
- 9) submission of applications to representations to vote by post (§ 50);
- 10) receipt of ballot papers sent by post (subsection 52 (2));
- 11) the time of voting at a representation (subsection 54 (2)).

(3) In the event of extraordinary Riigikogu elections, a total of at least ten days shall be provided for the nomination and registration of candidates.

(4) In the event of extraordinary elections, voters shall be entered in the list of the polling division in the territory of which their residence, as entered in the population register, is located on the date elections are called. If the address details of the residence of a voter are entered in the population register to the accuracy of the rural municipality or city, or in Tallinn to the accuracy of the city district, the voter shall be entered in the polling list of a polling division determined pursuant to clause 8 (2) 5) of this Act.

[RT I 2004, 6, 32, entered into force 14. 02. 2004]

#### Chapter 11

#### ELECTION EXPENDITURE

##### **§ 64. Expenditure relating to organisation of elections**

(1) Expenses incurred in the preparation and organisation of Riigikogu elections shall be covered from the state budget.

(2) The National Electoral Committee shall prepare a draft budget for election expenditure.

(3) The National Electoral Committee shall decide on the distribution of budget expenditure on the basis of the size of the allocations from the state budget.

(4) Expenses relating to the registration of voters (Chapter 5) shall be covered from the state budget out of separate funds allocated to the budget of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

##### **§ 65. Report on financing of election campaign of political party or independent candidate**

(1) A political party or an election coalition shall submit a report on the expenditure relating to its election campaign and the sources of the funds used (hereinafter report) to the Riigikogu committee specified in subsection 14 (2) of the Anti-corruption Act within one month after election day. The Riigikogu committee specified in subsection 14 (2) of the Anti-corruption Act shall disclose such reports.

(2) If a person who stands as a candidate in the list of a political party incurs expenditure for the election campaign separately from the campaign expenditure of the political party, the report shall also contain information on these expenses. The provisions concerning the reports of political parties apply to the specified expenditure.

(3) [Repealed - RT I 2003, 90, 601, entered into force 1. 01. 2004]

(4) A report shall consist of a part which sets out the sources of funds and a part relating to the expenditure.

[RT I 2003, 90, 601, entered into force 1. 01. 2004]

##### **§ 66. Funds used for election campaign**

(1) A political party or an independent candidate shall set out the following in a report:

- 1) the date of receipt of the funds;
- 2) the type of funds;
- 3) the value of the funds in kroons;
- 4) the name and personal identification code or registry code of the person who allocated the funds.

(2) The following are the types of funds received by a political party:

- 1) membership fees established by the articles of association of the political party;
- 2) donations by natural persons;

- 3) allocations from the state budget;
- 4) income earned on the assets of the political party;
- 5) loan or credit received under the conditions provided in subsection 121 (4) of the Political Parties Act (RT I 1994, 40, 654; 1996, 37, 739; 42, 811; 1998, 59, 941; 1999, 27, 393; 2002, 21, 117; 29, 174; 42, 264; 57, 355; 102, 602; 2003, 4, 22; 90, 601).

(3) The following are the types of funds received by an independent candidate:

- 1) donations (monetary donations, non-monetary donations and activity support);
- 2) estate;
- 3) loans;
- 4) personal funds.

(4) Anonymous and concealed donations are prohibited.

[RT I 2004, 6, 32, entered into force 14. 02. 2004]

#### **§ 67. Election campaign expenditure**

(1) A political party or an independent candidate shall set out the following in a report:

- 1) the date on which the expenditure is incurred;
- 2) the name and personal identification code or registry code of the beneficiary;
- 3) the number of the invoice which is the basis of the payment;
- 4) the type of expenditure;
- 5) the size of the payment in kroons.

(2) The types of expenditure are:

- 1) advertising expenses (expenses for publications, television advertising, radio advertising and advertising in newspapers and magazines shall be set out separately);
- 2) public relations expenses;
- 3) publication expenses;
- 4) transportation expenses;
- 5) rent expenses;
- 6) expenses for the organisation of public events;
- 7) communication expenses;
- 8) postal expenses;
- 9) other expenses.

(3) An expenditure report shall also set out information on outstanding contractual payments and unpaid invoices. A political party or an independent candidate shall submit an additional report on outstanding contractual payments and unpaid invoices.

Chapter 12

### **COMPLAINTS**

#### **§ 68. Definition of complaint**

For the purposes of this Act, a complaint is a request for the review of a resolution of an electoral committee and for the declaration of the resolution as invalid or for the declaration of an act of an electoral committee as unlawful, which is filed with a county electoral committee or the National Electoral Committee and is prepared according to the requirements of this Act.

#### **§ 69. Requirements for complaint**

(1) A complaint shall be prepared in writing and shall set out the following:

- 1) the name of the body with which the complaint is filed;
- 2) the name, postal address and telecommunications numbers of the complainant;
- 3) information on the resolution or a description of the act against which the complaint is filed;
- 4) a clearly expressed request;
- 5) the reasons for the complaint;
- 6) the date.

(2) A complaint shall be signed by the complainant. A complaint filed by a political party shall be signed by an authorised representative of the political party.

(3) If a complaint is not in conformity with the requirements prescribed in subsections (1) and (2) of this section or the complaint is filed in violation of the procedure prescribed in §§ 70 and 71 of this Act, the body with which the complaint is filed may refuse to review the

complaint and may return it to the complainant.

**§ 70. Procedure for filing complaint against act of division committee and for review of complaint**

(1) If an individual, a candidate or a political party (hereinafter interested person) finds that an act of a division committee violates his or her rights, the person may file a complaint with the county electoral committee.

(2) The complaint shall be filed with the county electoral committee within three days as of the act prescribed in subsection (1) of this section being performed.

(3) The county electoral committee shall review the complaint and adopt a resolution within three working days as of receipt of the complaint. The county electoral committee shall promptly communicate the resolution to the complainant.

(4) The complaint shall be reviewed in public. The county electoral committee shall inform the complainant of the date and place of review of the complaint.

(5) The county electoral committee shall adopt one of the following resolutions:

1) to dismiss the complaint;

2) to satisfy the complaint;

3) to satisfy the complaint partially.

(6) If a county electoral committee satisfies the complaint the committee may decide to perform acts prescribed in subsection 17 (2) of this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

**§ 71. Procedure for filing complaint against resolution or act of county electoral committee and for review of complaint**

(1) If an interested person finds that a resolution or act of a county electoral committee violates his or her rights, the person may file a complaint with the National Electoral Committee. A person whose complaint against an act of a division committee is dismissed by a county electoral committee may file a complaint against the act of the division committee with the National Electoral Committee.

(2) The complaint shall be filed with the county electoral committee which adopted the resolution or performed the act against which the complaint is filed or which reviewed the complaint filed against an act within three days as of the resolution or act prescribed in subsection (1) of this section being adopted or performed. The county electoral committee shall forward the complaint together with its written explanation promptly to the National Electoral Committee.

(3) The National Electoral Committee shall review the complaint and adopt a resolution within three working days as of receipt of the complaint. The National Electoral Committee shall promptly communicate the resolution to the complainant.

(4) The complaint shall be reviewed in public. The National Electoral Committee shall inform the complainant of the date and place of review of the complaint.

(5) The National Electoral Committee shall adopt one of the following resolutions:

1) to dismiss the complaint;

2) to satisfy the complaint;

3) to satisfy the complaint partially.

(6) If the National Electoral Committee satisfies the complaint the committee may decide to perform acts prescribed in subsection 15 (2) of this Act.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

**§ 72. Filing of complaints against resolutions or acts of National Electoral Committee**

(1) If an interested person finds that an act of a division committee, a resolution or act of a county electoral committee or a resolution or act of the National Electoral Committee violates his or her rights, the person may file an appeal with the Supreme Court pursuant to the procedure prescribed in the Constitutional Review Court Procedure Act (RT I 2002, 29, 174; 2003, 4, 22; 24, 148).

(2) An appeal against a resolution or act of an electoral committee may be filed with the Supreme Court after adjudication of the matter in the National Electoral Committee. The appeal shall be filed with the Supreme Court through the National Electoral Committee within three days as of the resolution or act of the National Electoral Committee being announced or

performed.

### **§ 73. Invalidation of voting results**

(1) If the National Electoral Committee or the Supreme Court has declared the voting results in a polling division, an electoral district, a county, the city of Tallinn or Tartu or the state invalid, the National Electoral Committee shall determine a new date for the election and a repeat vote shall be held in the corresponding polling division, electoral district or county or in the city of Tallinn or Tartu or in the whole state. The results of Riigikogu elections shall be verified after the results of the repeat vote become clear.

(11) Repeat vote shall not be held if the National Electoral Committee has declared the results of electronic voting invalid and invited the persons who voted electronically to vote on election day pursuant to the procedure provided for in articles 39 or 46 of this Act.

(2) The provisions of §§ 40-45 and 47 and Chapter 8 of this Act do not apply to a repeat vote. [RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

Chapter 121

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

[RT I 2003, 26, 156, entered into force 21. 03. 2003]

### **§ 731. Failure to submit information or materials or to comply with resolution of electoral committee**

(1) Failure to submit information or materials for the organisation of elections or failure to comply with a resolution of an electoral committee is punishable by a fine of up to 20 fine units.

(2) The provisions of the Penal Code (RT I 2001, 61, 364; 2002, 82, 480; 86, 504; 105, 612; 2003, 4, 22) and of the Code of Misdemeanour Procedure (RT I 2002, 50, 313; 110, 654) apply to misdemeanours provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Police prefectures shall conduct extra-judicial proceedings in the matters of misdemeanours provided in subsection (1) of this section.

### **§ 732. Violation of the restrictions established on political outdoor advertising**

(1) Violation of the restrictions established on political outdoor advertising is punishable by a fine of up to 300 fine units.

(2) The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a fine of up to 50,000 kroons.

(3) Pursuant to the procedure provided for in this Act, the following shall be responsible for the failure to fulfil the requirements established on political outdoor advertising or violation of

the established restrictions, as the publishers of advertising:

1) party who orders advertising if the advertising ordered by him/her violates the requirements

or restrictions established for advertising pursuant to this Act, except in cases provided for in clauses 2 and 4 of this section;

2) mediator or producer of advertising, if his/her activities violate the requirements or restrictions established for advertising pursuant to this Act;

3) person who presents advertising to the public, person who exhibits advertising to the public or person who transmits advertising to the public, if his/her activities violate the restrictions established for advertising pursuant to this Act;

4) the advertisers mentioned in clauses 1–3 of this section solidarily if their activities violate the requirements or restrictions established for advertising pursuant to this Act and it is impossible to identify their separate liabilities.

(4) The provisions of the General Part of the Penal Code (RT I 2001, 61, 364; 2002, 86, 504; 82, 480; 105, 612; 2003, 4, 22; 83, 557; 90, 601; 2004, 7, 40; 46, 329; 54, 387; 56, 401; 88, 600; 2005, 20, 126) and of the Code of Misdemeanour Procedure (RT I 2002, 50, 313; 110, 654; 2003, 26, 156; 83, 557; 88, 590; RT III 2004, 9, 96; RT I 2004, 46, 329; 54, 387 and 390;

56, 403) apply to the misdemeanour provided in subsection (1) and (2) of this section.

(5) A police prefecture is the extra-judicial body which conducts proceedings in matters of misdemeanours provided for in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(6) County or city courts shall hear misdemeanour matters provided for in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

[RT I 2005, 37, 281, entered into force 10. 07. 2005]

**§ 733. Taking ballot papers outside the polling place**

(1) Violation of prohibition to take ballot papers outside the polling place is punishable by a fine of up to 20 fine units.

(2) The provisions of the General Part of the Penal Code and of the Code of Misdemeanour Procedure apply to the misdemeanour provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Police prefectures shall conduct extra-judicial proceedings in the matters of misdemeanours provided in subsection (1) of this section.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

Chapter 13

FINAL PROVISIONS

**§ 74. Registration of members of Riigikogu and declaration of election results**

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall, by a resolution, register the elected members of the Riigikogu after election day if the term for filing complaints and appeals with the National Electoral Committee and the Supreme Court has expired or if final resolutions have been adopted in respect of filed complaints and appeals.

(2) In the case prescribed in § 73 of this Act, the National Electoral Committee shall register the elected members of the Riigikogu after the repeat vote, taking into consideration the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The election results are deemed to be declared on the date following publication of the resolution of the National Electoral Committee set out in subsection (1) or (2) of this section in the *Riigi Teataja*.

**§ 75. Registration of alternate members of Riigikogu**

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall register alternate members of the Riigikogu by a resolution. The National Electoral Committee shall forward the resolution to the Board of the Riigikogu.

(2) Alternate members shall be registered to the political parties whose candidates have collectively received at least 5 per cent of the valid votes nationally.

(3) Candidates shall be registered, by each electoral district, to political parties as alternate members for candidates who were elected in electoral districts and shall be ranked according to the number of votes received. If candidates receive an equal number of votes from the voters, the candidate who was positioned further towards the top of the list of candidates of the political party in the electoral district shall be positioned ahead. Unelected candidates for whom the number of votes cast amounts to at least 10 per cent of the simple quota of the electoral district shall be registered as alternate members.

(4) Unelected candidates for whom the number of votes cast amounts to at least 5 per cent of the simple quota of the electoral district shall be registered as alternate members for candidates who were elected on the basis of compensation mandates in the order specified in the national list of the political party, and thereafter the rest of the unelected candidates of the same political party shall be registered in the order of the percentage of votes calculated on the basis of the simple quota of the electoral district. If the percentage of votes of candidates is equal, the candidate who was positioned further towards the top of the national list of the political party shall be positioned ahead.

**§ 76. Registration of additional mandates**

(1) The table of comparative figures of political parties which is approved by a resolution of the National Electoral Committee shall be the basis for the distribution of additional mandates. The National Electoral Committee shall forward the resolution to the Board of the Riigikogu.

(2) The table of comparative figures sets out the comparative figures obtained for political parties (subsection 62 (5)) in size order, starting from the comparative figure which was the first not to be taken into account upon distribution of compensation mandates.

(3) If at least two comparative figures are equal, the comparative figure of the political party which received more votes from voters shall receive a higher ranking. If the number of votes

of political parties is equal, the political party or election coalition whose candidates are further towards the bottom of the general list of candidates in the electoral district shall receive a higher ranking.

[RT I 2006, 30, 231, entered into force 14. 07. 2006]

**§ 77. Return of security**

Security shall be returned to an independent candidate or a political party if the candidate is elected or receives votes to the extent of at least one-half of the simple quota in the electoral district or if the candidates of the political party receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally. The National Electoral Committee shall transfer unreturned security into the public revenues.

**§ 78. Implementation of electronic voting**

Electronic voting shall not be implemented before 2005.

§§ 79–85 [Not included in the current text]

**§ 86. Entry into force of Act**

This Act enters into force on the tenth day after publication in the *Riigi Teataja*, except for §§ 75 and 79 which enter into force on 2 March 2003