

OSKA study of public administration

Key findings

By 2027, there will be 1000 people less working in public administration

- It is forecasted that the number of jobs will decrease for administration support services and positions responsible for construction and land consolidation.
- The number of public administration's legal, financial, taxation and statistics, agricultural and rural affairs, economics, transportation, and energy jobs will slightly decrease.
- There will be more public administration jobs in social affairs and employment policy fields and for specialists developing healthcare, also for IT and data protection employees.
- The number of public administration jobs will slightly increase for the occupations of communication, foreign affairs, and security policy.

There are not enough jobs for all the public administration graduates

- In the following years, 120 students a year graduate public administration programmes, but there are jobs for about 70 graduates.
- In the academic year of 2019/2020, 1/3 of the students enrolled in public administration programmes were international students who in general do not stay in Estonia for work.
- About 1/3 of the Estonian students are over 30, at master's level the number is more than half.
 - Adult students who are enhancing their knowledge and skills and usually continue working in similar positions.

Public administration needs employees who have in-depth knowledge about their area of work in addition to understanding how the public sector works

- There are not many jobs that require only public administration education.
- The combination of knowledge of public administration and work specific expertise, for example in social work, environment, construction etc., is needed to work in public administration.
- Public administration education could be offered more in the form of modules, so that already employed adults and students from other programmes could more easily obtain additional skills required in public administration.
- Service design and data analysis skills will be more expected from public administration employees.

Background

- Over 132,000 people are employed in public sector of which 25,000 were analysed in the OSKA study of public administration.
- The OSKA study of public administration analysed the need for labour force and skills until 2027 and made proposals to the education system how to meet it. The study covers state institutions, local governments, trade unions, the unions of employers as well as occupational organisations.

- Public administration programmes are offered at the University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology and Tallinn University.
- The OSKA forecasting system produces projections of the need for labour force and skills in all fields of the Estonian economy and compares these to the education and training offered by higher education institutions, VET institutions and continuing education courses.
- OSKA studies of the labour force and skills demand help to make smarter career choices and shape the employment and education policies with a view to the future.
- OSKA studies are conducted by the Estonian Qualifications Authority (*Kutsekoda*) and funded by the European Social Fund.