

## OSKA study of legal occupations

### *Key findings*

#### **Until 2029, the field of law needs over 70 new employees every year: about 3/4 of them in private sector and 1/3 in public administration**

- The number of lawyers in public administration will decrease up to 10%, but the number of jobs in the Public Prosecutor's Office and courts will remain the same.
- The demand for the providers of legal services increases almost up to 10% due to the increased specialisation, expectations of clients, purchasing power and complexity of agreements.
- The number of jobs for in-house lawyers will remain the same.
- The number of legal assistants will decrease nearly 20%.

#### **There are significantly more people studying law than there are jobs for them in the field**

- There are twice as many law graduates than there are jobs for them in the field.
  - 1/3 less of study places in bachelor's studies and 1/4 less of study places in master's studies is enough to fill the future jobs.
- Significantly more students graduate from the vocational education programmes for legal assistants than there are jobs for them in the future.
  - The need for labour force can be covered by approximately half of the students enrolled in the legal assistant programme during the period of 2016-2018.
- The demand for labour force in the Public Prosecutor's Office and courts as well as for legislative policy lawyers is met by the number of MA graduates in law with suitable skills.
- Also, the demand for labour force to fill the positions of attorneys, notaries, bailiffs, trustees in bankruptcy and patent attorneys is met by the number of MA graduates in law with suitable skills.

#### **Employers should regularly participate in the development of curricula, so that the legal education would meet the demand of labour market better**

- University graduates lack of legal interpretation and general skills.
- The level of MA graduates' skills is uneven, and it depends on the specialisation of a master's programme.
- Employers and students need more information about how specific MA programmes meet the demand of the labour market.
- The selection of elective courses should be regularly updated with employers.
- It is necessary to open an additional training programme for assistant judges.

### **Background**

- Over 5,200 people are employed in the occupations of law, which is under 1% of the total number of employees in Estonia.
- Professional training in law can be obtained from:
  - the University of Tartu, Tallinn University and Tallinn University of Technology that altogether offer 10 higher education study programmes;
  - Tallinn School of Economics that offers one vocational education study programme.
- The OSKA study of law analysed the need for labour force and skills until 2029 and made proposals how to meet it. The study covers the legal occupations of courts, the public prosecutor's office, lawyers, legal assistants, attorneys, notaries, bailiffs, trustees in bankruptcy and patent attorneys.
- The OSKA forecasting system produces projections of the need for labour force and skills in all fields of the Estonian economy by 2020 and compares these to the education and training offered by higher education institutions, VET institutions and continuing education courses.
- OSKA studies are conducted by the Estonian Qualifications Authority (Kutsekoda) and funded by the European Social Fund.