



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

# Current issues in the Estonian spatial planning system

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# Short history of Estonia's spatial planning legislation

- First modern spatial planning legislation in **1995** - *Building and construction act*
- *Building act* from **2003**
- Some notable changes in **2009**, latest version available in English at <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/531032014003/consolide>
- Current *Building act* from **2015**, available in English at <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/502012017006/consolide>
  - Whole new structure of law
  - Two new planning instruments
  - Planning principles laid out in the law
  - Preparations took 8 years hand in hand with the codification of construction act, led by ministry of justice

National spatial plan

County spatial plan

Municipality comprehensive plan

Detailed plan

National spatial plan

County spatial plan

Municipality comprehensive plan

Detailed plan

National designated spatial plan

Municipality designated spatial plan

National spatial plan

County spatial plan

Municipality comprehensive plan

Detailed plan

*Detailed plan*

*Detailed plan*

National designated spatial plan

Municipality designated spatial plan

*Building design specifications*



1995



2015



2015

# Recent notable events influencing spatial planning

- Local administrations reform: 213 to 79 (<https://news.err.ee/606664/administrative-reform-this-is-the-new-map-of-Estonia>)
- Abolishment of county level administration. Responsibilities given to ministries or local municipalities
- Recent Supreme Court judgement: more exact information and assessment on environment needed on strategic planning level

+ some „omnipresent“ issues in spatial planning

# Green paper on spatial planning (in progress)

- Combining strategic planning and land use planning (from land use planning to spatial planning)
- Regional planning without regional administration?
- Complexity and rigidity of planning processes
- Added value of impact assessment in planning processes
- Stakeholders' role in the decision-making processes
- ...



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