



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH

# Problems and debates in R&I system. Estonian example

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# Research funding system

- Project-based and competitive funding
  - Project-based funding does not allow research institutions to set long-term objectives
  - Competitive funding does not allow research funding to ensure the stability of the various research fields
- Considerable dependence on EU Structural Funds
  - New and internationally attractive research infrastructures, but not enough funds to use these in full capacity



# Emerging researchers and careers

- Researcher has many roles: administrator, manager, teacher
- Competences not acquired nor considered important during doctoral studies



# The impact of research on society

- Entrepreneurs assess investments into research mainly on the basis of return on investment.
- Researchers are motivated to solve global problems by contributing to the development of knowledge over a very long period of time.
- Bringing together research and entrepreneurship competences that would make possible to create value chains where entrepreneurs are able to capitalize on the results of researchers.



# Issues in the context of H2020

- Partnerships and the participation cap
  - Dedicated support by national level
  - Difficulties to get in to “closed clubs”
- HR depends on national funding
  - Dependency of Structural Funds -> projects are not sustainable
- Amount of bureaucracy regarding the Structural Funds
  - Special personnel are required
  - Rules should be flexible and audits more trusting





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# Thank you!

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