



ESTONIA

“ An opportunity to move forward”

By Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation - AKÜ

Main trends

For many years, Estonia's general goal has been to meet the 0.33% GNI to ODA target. This goal was officially achieved for the first time in 2022, when it reached 0,54% due to the intensive support provided to Ukraine since the start of the war. We are very proud of our assistance to Ukraine, but much of this aid has been focused on the humanitarian field, which is not directly development cooperation. While it is important to continue our support for Ukraine, it is essential to not forget other regions as well.

Government's relationship with civil society

We continue to be the strategic partner of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and our relationship continues to be positive. We have been asked on numerous occasions for our input on different matters.

There have been a few issues since the creation of the Estonian Center for International Development Cooperation (ESTDEV), which was established in 2021 to take over the role of the implementation of development cooperation. The main problem is that the funding models are not clear and understandable enough. We also see as a problem the fact that business diplomacy and NGOs are financed from the same funding channels. Luckily, after some advocacy work, the MFA has heard us and some change is envisioned.

We have also observed that the MFA puts more emphasis on business diplomacy and although we acknowledge that it is also a very important field from which the target countries can also obtain benefits, we would still like to see an equally strong support for development cooperation as well.

Reported ODA: EUR 162 million

0.54% GNI (↑ from 0.16% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 45,7 million

0.15% GNI (↓ from 0.16% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 116 million

71.7% of total



The Estonian government should:

- Establish separate funding channels dedicated to supporting business diplomacy and non-governmental organisations engaged in development cooperation.
- Make funding channels clearer and to enhance the long-term strategic planning, enabling civil society organisations to make long-term plans as well.
- Despite the fragile economic situation and the national inclination toward financial savings, avoid any cutting or reduction of the existing budget allocated for development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- Understand that development cooperation is not business diplomacy and does not have to bring money into the country.